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PUTNAM COUNTY, OHIO.

HISTORY

OF

PUTNAM COUNTY,OHIO

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

By

GEORGE D. KINDERpt. 3

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and
Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

ILLUSTRATED

1915

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William A. Beutler was married on September 28, 1904, to Martha Altekrause, the daughter of William and Theresa (Altekrause) Altekrause. To this union three children have been born, Wilfred, Louise and Karl. Mr. Beutler is a Democrat. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus at Ottawa and Catholic Knights of Ohio, of Leipsic, and has been president of this order for the past two years. Mr. Beutler is also a member of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, with which he has been identified for ten years. He and his wife and family are members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic.

William A. Beutler is a booster for the town in which he lives, and, although his work confines him closely to his post of duty, he is known as a promoter of the public good. He is well-liked by the people of Leipsic and vicinity and has a most pleasing personality.

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FRANK B. HERMILLER.

Some of the richest land in Putnam county, Ohio, at one time was so thoroughly covered with water and brush and appeared in such confusion that the land beneath seemed too poor to cultivate. Those who had the energy to clear and drain this land now possess some of the finest farms in Putnam county. Among the many prosperous and progressive farmers of this county who have acquired some of this land, which a generation ago looked hopeless, is Frank B. Hermiller.

Frank B. Hermiller was born on April 22, 1865, southeast of Ottawa, in Ottawa township. He is a son of Bernard and Bernardina (Nadler) Hermiller. Bernard Hermiller was born near Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, and lived there until twenty-eight years of age. He came to America about 1850, locating first in Brooklyn, New York, where he was employed in a sugar refinery. He began working for thirty-eight cents a day, and thought this was good pay. He remained nine years at this one place, and when he left there, was receiving sixty cents a day. In New York he was married to Bernardina Nadler, a native of his home district, near Glandorf, Germany. He moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in the early sixties, and purchased one hundred and forty acres of land southwest of Ottawa. This land was all in woods, except five acres, and had only an old log house on it, in the way of improvements. The former occupant moved off the place to higher land north of Ottawa to escape the surface water on the land. This

William A. Bender was married on September 28, 1904, to Martha Altkruse, the daughter of William and Theresa (Altkruse) Altkruse. To this union three children have been born: Wilfred, Louise and Karl. Mr. Bender is a Democrat. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus at Ottawa and Catholic Knights of Ohio, of Leipsic, and has been president of this order for the past two years. Mr. Bender is also a member of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, with which he has been identified for ten years. He and his wife and family are members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic.

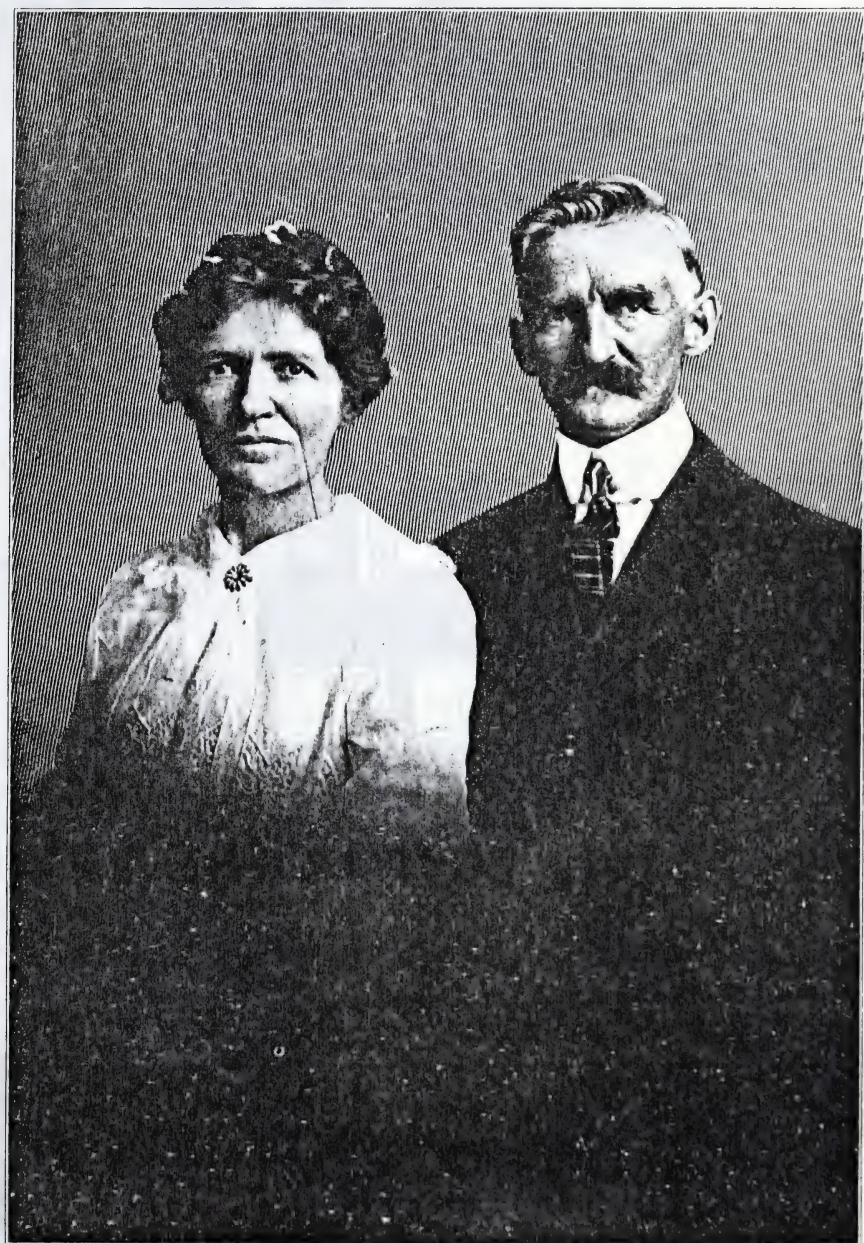
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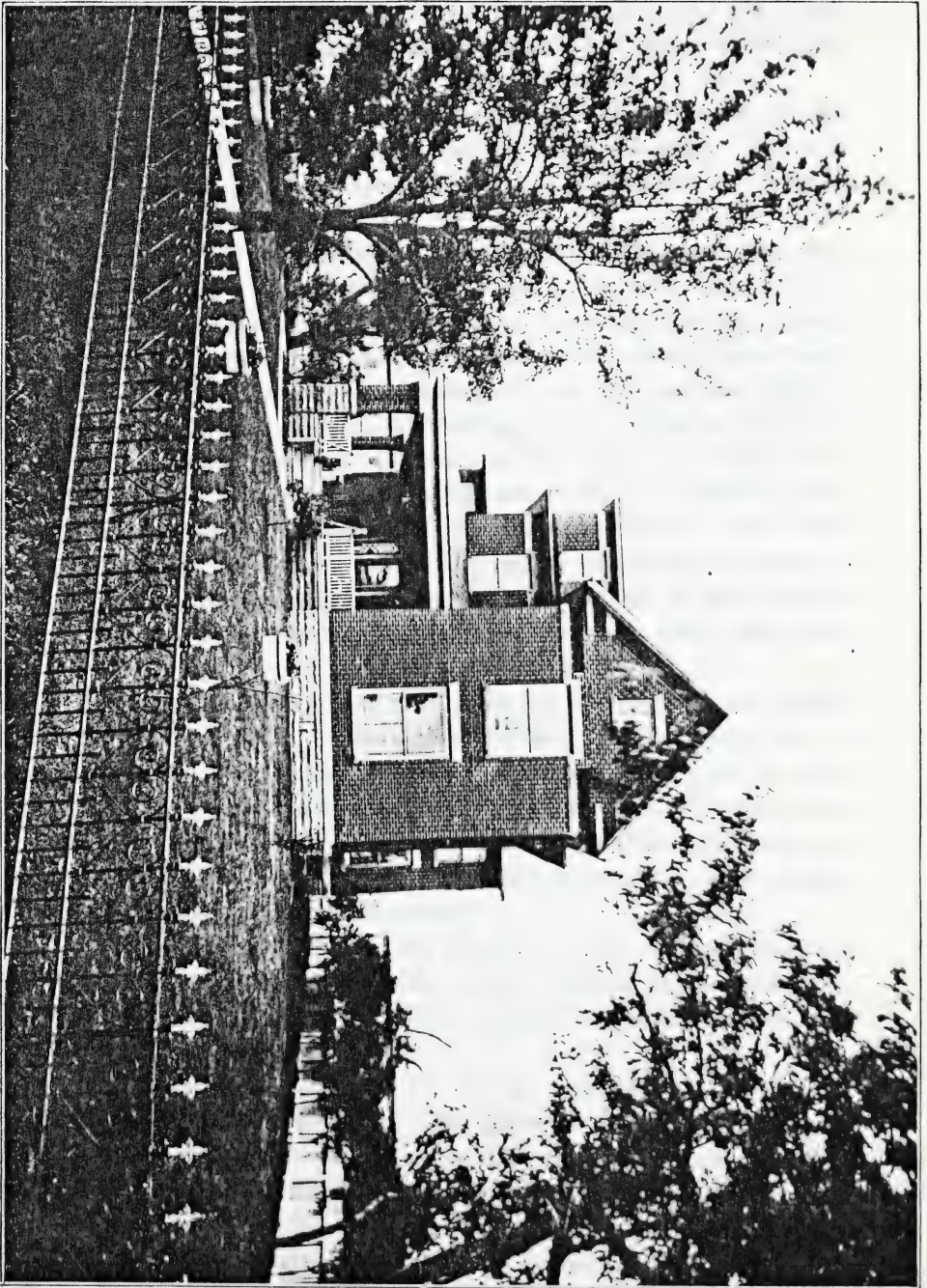
FRANK B. HERNIMILLER

Some of the richest land in Putnam county, Ohio, at one time was so thoroughly covered with water and brush and appeared in such confusion that the land beneath seemed too poor to cultivate. Those who had the energy to clear and drain this land now possess some of the best farms in Putnam county. Among the many prosperous and progressive farmers of this county who have drained some of this land, which a generation ago looked hopelessly, is Frank B. Hernimiller.

Frank B. Hernimiller was born on April 22, 1865, southeast of Ottawa, in Ottawa township. He is a son of Bernard and Bernadina (Nadler) Hernimiller. Bernard Hernimiller was born near Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, and lived there until twenty-eight years of age. He came to America about 1850, locating first in Brooklyn, New York, where he was employed in a sugar refinery. He began working for thirty-eight cents a day, and though this was good pay. He remained nine years at this one place, and when he left there was receiving sixty cents a day. In New York he was married to Bernadina Nadler, a native of his home district near Glandorf, Germany. He moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in the early sixties, and purchased one hundred and forty acres of land southwest of Ottawa. This land was all in woods, except five acres, and had only an old log house on it in the way of improvements. The former occupant moved off the place to higher land north of Ottawa to escape the surface water on the land. This



MR. AND MRS. FRANK B. HERMILLER.



RESIDENCE OF FRANK B. HEMMILLER.

gave Mr. Hermiller fine land when it was cleared and drained. He afterward purchased two other farms, one consisting of eighty and the other of one hundred acres. He farmed here the rest of his life, and died in June, 1884. His wife died at the age of eighty-three, November 10, 1910.

Frank B. Hermiller was one of seven children. He grew up on the home farm and, in April, 1890, was married to Mary Bloemer. She was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, and is a daughter of Bernard and Josephine (Kenkal) Bloemer.

Bernard Bloemer and his family, at that time, consisting of two children, Johanna and Mary, left Germany and came to America about forty-seven years ago and settled on a farm in Ottawa township, Putnam county, on a farm. They lived there for eight years and then moved to a farm which he purchased in Jennings township, consisting of one hundred and eighteen acres. He erected a number of splendid buildings. Five children were born to Bernard and Josephine (Kenkal) Bloemer in this county, and three were born in Germany, Johanna, who died in Germany; Mary, Johanna, Elizabeth, Anna, Bernard, deceased; Christina, and Emma, deceased. Mr. Bloemer and wife lived on their farm until their death. He died on April 13, 1914. His wife died on January 12, 1915. They belonged to the Christian church at Ft. Jennings and were highly esteemed for their many fine qualities.

Frank B. Hermiller has farmed ever since his marriage in the locality where he was born and reared. He built a splendid brick residence on the Pandora road, southeast of Ottawa, overlooking the Blanchard river, in 1807. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty-eight acres of land, all in one body, also sixty-three acres near Miller City. His house is thoroughly modern, and is equipped with a private lighting plant, a furnace, and all other modern conveniences. It is also very well furnished.

Frank B. Hermiller and wife are the parents of four children, Edward, at home; Emma, the wife of Harry Kahle, lives in Ottawa, and is the mother of one daughter, Alice Rosemary; Frank, a student in the high school, and Mary Josephine, living at home.

Frank B. Hermiller and family are devout members of the Catholic church at Ottawa. Mr. Hermiller is a progressive farmer of an affable disposition, and is clear-minded and strong-hearted. He is one of those men who always knows just what he is going to do and how he is going to do it. He is methodical, precise, and exact in everything that he does, a man who has been able to translate brains into the business of farming. Mrs.

Hermiller is a charming woman of gracious manner, kind and hospitable. She is very intelligent and has proved a loyal and helpful wife, who has contributed much to his success.

GEORGE I. BEST.

Among the comfortably situated retired farmers of Putnam county, few are better known, or more generally popular, than the genial George I. Best, of Columbus Grove, to a brief sketch of whose career the biographer here engages the attention of the reader of this comprehensive history of this county, a compilation which would not be complete without fitting reference to the gentleman whose name serves as the caption of this particular bit of biography.

George I. Best was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, May 4, 1847, the son of George and Hannah (Sneary) Best, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, but who had lived in Ohio from the days of their childhood.

George Best, father of George I., came to Ohio from Pennsylvania with his parents when a lad and grew up in Tuscarawas county, where he received the benefits of the excellent schools of that county and where he learned, under his father's direction, the general principles of agriculture, his father having been a successful farmer of that county. He married in that county and, about the year 1851, when George I. was but three years old or thereabout, moved to Putnam county, settling in Union township, where he bought a farm of eighty acres, on which he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in the year 1865, when he was sixty-five years of age. George Best's wife, the mother of George I., who also was born in the Keystone state, became a resident of Ohio at an early age, having moved with her parents to Tuscarawas county, when she was a little girl. There she grew to womanhood, enjoying the educational advantages of the district schools, and there she married George Best, whom she made a faithful and competent helpmate, and whom she survived many years, her death not occurring until the year 1881.

George and Hannah (Sneary) Best were the parents of ten children, James, David, Catherine, Elizabeth, George I., Sarah Jane, John, William, Jacob and Ella. Of these there are now surviving but three, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, who lives at Kalida, this county; George I., the immediate subject of this sketch, and Jacob, who also lives at Kalida.

George I. Best grew up on his father's farm in Union township, receiving

his education in the district school in his neighborhood and a careful training in the rudiments of farming under his father's thoughtful direction. On March 2, 1871, he was united in marriage to Rosetta Norton, a native of Putnam county, who was born on July 14, 1849, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (McDowell) Norton, well-known residents of this county. For further details of the Norton family, the reader is referred to the interesting biographical sketch presented on another page of this volume, relating to B. Burgess, whose deceased wife was a sister of Mrs. Best.

To George I. and Rosetta (Norton) Best were born eight children, Harry is a successful farmer living in Monroe township, Allen county; Herbert, who also lives in Allen county; Maude, who married Oliver Logan, lives in Bodkins, Ohio, and has one child, a daughter, Irene; Mina, who married Charles Reeder, a farmer of Pleasant township, this county, and has two children, Herbert and Leon; Eva, who died young; Orpha, who married Louis Zimmerman, of Lima, Ohio, and has one child, a daughter, Esther. Besides the foregoing there were two of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Best, who died in infancy.

George I. Best has attained his present comfortable station in life by gradual degrees, it being the exact truth to say of him that he is a self-made man in all that much-abused term implies. He remained on the home farm assisting his father until he was twenty years of age, when he started out "on his own hook," working on neighboring farms for about three years, at the end of which time he married and rented the Judge Skinner farm on which he remained for six years, tilling the same with such success that, at the end of that time, he was able to purchase a farm of forty acres in Union township, this county, on which he lived for four years, this venture also proving successful, and at the end of that time he sold the Union township farm and bought a farm of eighty acres in Allen county, on which he lived for about twenty-two years, at the end of which time, in the year 1903, he sold this farm and moved to Columbus Grove, this county, where he since has lived in comfortable retirement, enjoying the confidence and respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances, his home being one of the pleasantest and most hospitable in the town of Columbus Grove.

In addition to the vocation of general farming, which Mr. Best made the principal business of his life for so many years, he also gave much attention to the breeding of fine horses. He always has been a lover of horses and has a more than local reputation as a good judge of horse flesh, and his breeding stables in Allen county, for many years were popular among the farmers throughout that section. Since moving to Columbus Grove, Mr.

Best has maintained an excellent breeding stable there, the quality of the service extended recommending them highly to the consideration of the farmers hereabout.

George I. Best is a Democrat and gives such attention to the political affairs of the county as is the duty of all good citizens, but has never been included in the office-seeking class, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his own personal affairs, though his judgments in political matters are regarded as sound and his counsels along these lines carry no small weight among the local party managers. Mr. Best and wife are members of the Christian church at Columbus Grove, Mr. Best having served the congregation of that church in the capacity of a deacon, for some time past. He and Mrs. Best are active participants in the local beneficences of the church and are likewise interested in all movements looking to the general welfare of the community in which they are so well liked, the geniality and friendliness of their manners having made them popular with all with whom they come in contact.

JESSE N. HEISCHMAN, D. V. S.

Science has taken hold not only of business but of all professions as well and veterinary surgery is no exception. The practice of this profession is regulated by law in most states and elaborate courses of instruction must be followed, before the practice is permitted. Jesse N. Heischman, D. V. S., a veterinary surgeon of Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, entered his profession, well-equipped in every respect. Not only are his professional attainments superior, but he is personally popular throughout Putnam county and has always enjoyed a large and lucrative practice.

Jesse N. Heischman, D. V. S., is the son of a well-known physician and veterinarian, now deceased, and was born on April 27, 1872, in Franklin county, Ohio. His parents were Theodore and Melissa (Smith) Heischman. Theodore Heischman, M. D., D. V. S., was born in Franklin county, Ohio, in 1848, and was the son of John Heischman, who was born in Virginia and who came to Franklin county, Ohio, where, for some time, he was a farmer. Later, John Heischman came to Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and settled on a farm close to North creek, where he farmed one hundred and sixty acres of land, until his death. Theodore Heischman grew up in Franklin county, Ohio, where he received his early education. He was trained for veterinary surgery at Ohio State University and for the practice of general

medicine at the Chicago School of Medicine and practiced both in different parts of Franklin county. He practiced medicine at Bucyrus and Defiance, Ohio, and later, went west to Ft. Scott, Kansas, where he practiced veterinary surgery for some time. Returning to Putnam county, he farmed in Palmer township until a short time before his death, in 1892, at the age of forty-five. He died of lung trouble of which he had failed to gain relief on his trip to the West. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Melissa Smith, was born in Licking county, Ohio, November 25, 1844, and died in 1903. She was the daughter of Archibald and Mary (Beach) Smith.

Theodore and Melissa (Smith) Heischman were the parents of four children, Dr. Jesse N., twin sisters who died in infancy, and Homer, who lives at Findlay, Ohio. Theodore Heischman, M. D., D. V. S., was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias at Bucyrus, and a Democrat in politics.

Jesse N. Heischman was reared in Franklin county, Ohio, where he lived until ten years of age, when he removed, with his parents, to Bucyrus, Ohio. His early education was received at Bucyrus and Defiance. He accompanied his father on his trip to Ft. Scott, Kansas, and returned with him to Palmer township, Putnam county.

Doctor Heischman was married on May 11, 1892, to Catherine Beck, the daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Etchen) Beck, the former of whom was born on August 18, 1829, in Bavaria, and who died on August 9, 1899. His wife was born on December 1, 1836, and died on July 6, 1905. Jacob Beck and wife had thirteen children, Frank, born on July 11, 1854; John, January 6, 1856; Nicholas, died in infancy; Jane, October 6, 1860; Mary, April 30, 1862, died in August, 1906; Clara, March 12, 1863; Nathaniel Joseph, November 8, 1865; William A., September 6, 1867; Catherine, the wife of Dr. Heischman; Elizabeth, October 16, 1871; Louise M., February 4, 1874; Henry L., March 20, 1878, and Albert J., June 9, 1882, died in September of the same year.

Mrs. Jesse N. Heischman was born on November 13, 1869. She has been the mother of four children, Ruth Hazel, born on May 3, 1893, who married N. S. Robbins and lives in Van Buren, Ohio; Russell Newton, July 3, 1895; Barbara Jane, December 3, 1899, and John Theodore, September 21, 1904.

Jesse N. Heischman, D. V. S., attended the veterinary college, at Toronto, Canada, but did not graduate there. He finished his work at Grand Rapids Veterinary College, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, with the class of 1900. He also took a course in veterinary dental work at the Ontario Col-

lege, at Toronto, and finished this course in 1893. Doctor Heischman is a registered doctor of veterinary surgery in both Ohio and Michigan. After finishing his course, in 1893, he came to Continental, Ohio, where he practiced for five years. After graduation from the Grand Rapids school, he returned to Columbus Grove and began practice. He is the only veterinarian in this vicinity and has a lucrative practice. He is considered one of the most successful veterinarians in this section of Ohio.

Jesse N. Heischman, D. V. S., is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Continental. He served as mayor of Columbus Grove for two terms, from 1906 to 1910, and is the present health officer for the corporation as well as the humane officer. He is a Democrat and, throughout his life, has been active in behalf of his party. He is, however, a booster for all civic improvements, regardless of party. He is now the Putnam county representative for the Indiana and Ohio Live Stock Insurance Agency and patentee of the Heischman Colic Cure, a remedy which is famous for its results and which has a large sale. Doctor Heischman is no longer interested, financially, in this remedy, having sold his interest to outside parties.

Doctor Heischman is a man of splendid approach, likeable and congenial, well spoken of, of pleasing personality and bears an excellent reputation in his community.

WARREN C. DRAPER.

Warren C. Draper was born on January 2, 1853, in Summit county, Ohio. He is a son of Warren Luke and Louisa (Savacole) Draper. Warren Luke Draper was born on October 6, 1823, in Washington county, New York. He was a son of Moses and Sabrina Draper, who were natives of Washington county, New York. Moses Draper and wife came to Ohio about 1829, and settled at Hudson, Summit county, and here they reared a family of nine children, eight sons and one daughter. Warren Luke Draper was the second child. Moses Draper and wife spent the remainder of their lives in Summit county. Warren Luke grew up on the old homestead and was married, in Summit county, to Louisa Savacole, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Savacole, who were pioneer settlers in Summit county, Ohio.

When about thirty years old, Warren Luke Draper removed to Hancock county, Ohio, where he purchased a farm in Allen township, five miles northeast of Findlay. He was the owner of one hundred and eighty acres and was a prosperous farmer and stock dealer. He and his wife were the parents of three sons and three daughters: Sarah Ann, the wife of

Eli W. Pepple; Warren C., the immediate subject of this review; Salina Elizabeth, the wife of Sanford Lemon; James Edward, who married Lela Lepper; Martha J., the wife of Armenius King, and Charles, who died at the age of one and one-half years.

Warren C. Draper grew to manhood in Hancock county, and remained on the home farm until he was twenty years of age. He was first married on December 23, 1876, at the age of twenty-three, to Myra Jane Hosler, the daughter of John and Isabel Hosler, who were pioneers of Hancock county, and who came from York county, Pennsylvania, in an early day.

After his marriage Mr. Draper lived for four years near Arcadia, in Hancock county, Ohio, and then removed, in the spring of 1881, to Blanchard township, Putnam county, three miles northeast of Gilboa, where he purchased eighty acres of land, only twenty acres of which were partially cleared. Since this time he has cleared the remainder of the farm and has surrounded himself with substantial improvements. He has always made a specialty of raising high grade live stock, and has been very successful as a farmer.

By his first marriage, Mr. Draper had four children, Charles, Belle, Harry and Bernice. Charles resides in Leipsic, Ohio. He married Edith Tafflinger, and they have three sons, James, John and Richard. Belle is the wife of Frank Miller and resides at Tiffin, Ohio. Harry H. married Edna Wight, and they reside at Lewiston, Montana. They were the parents of one child who died in infancy. Bernice is unmarried, and at present is attending the academy at Tiffin, Ohio. Mrs. Draper died on August 8, 1908, and on June 6, 1911, Mr. Draper married Mrs. Malissa Slosser, of Toledo, Ohio, a sister of his first wife. She lived only eight months after her marriage and died on February 6, 1912.

Warren C. Draper's father, Warren L. Draper, was married the second time, to Hannah King, the daughter of John King and wife, and to this union were born two daughters, Emma, who became the wife of a Mr. Russell, of Minerva, Ohio, and Belle, the wife of George Burrell, of Continental, Ohio.

Mr. Draper is a Republican. He has been influential in the educational circles of his township for many years, and has served as a member of the school board. Throughout his life he has been an active member of the United Brethren church, and a trustee in this denomination.

Warren C. Draper is a man highly respected by the citizens of his community, and is known as an enterprising farmer, a good neighbor and a kind and considerate father.

BENJAMIN F. ECK.

Many farmers owe their success to a steady determination formed early in their careers. Where industry is required they are not afraid of toil; where economy is necessary they do not hesitate to practice frugality; where careful management seems the keynote to affluence, they are painstaking in their attention to details. Benjamin F. Eck, of Riley township, is a successful farmer, because he has strictly adhered to the principles which, if strictly followed, insure success. He is one of those men who are able to identify their ancestors with one of the earliest wars fought by this country when the country still wore its swaddling clothes. Frederick Eck was a soldier in the War of 1812 and during his service in this war, came to northwestern Ohio as an Indian scout.

Benjamin F. Eck was born on May 8, 1872, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Benjamin and Catherine Ellen (Sanderlin) Eck. Benjamin Eck was born in Richland county, Ohio, on January 23, 1827, the son of Frederick and Nancy (Newcomer) Eck. Frederick Eck was born in Pennsylvania, about 1788, and died at the age of eighty-eight, in 1876, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio.

It was Frederick Eck, who, as a young man, enlisted in the War of 1812 and, during his services as a soldier, came West as an Indian spy. On this trip, Frederick Eck had ample opportunity to observe the new country and it was then that he resolved to cast his lot with this frontier country. After the war, he returned to Pennsylvania and was married in Franklin county, of that state. Thereupon he moved to Richland county, Ohio, and there he settled. But he remained there only a few years, coming to Putnam county in 1835. It was in Richland county, however, that his children were born. There were seven of them, five sons and two daughters, one daughter dying in infancy. Benjamin Eck, Sr., the father of Benjamin F., was next to the youngest child.

After coming to Putnam county, in 1835, Frederick Eck lived in a cabin on the farm of Samuel Hall, just east of Gilboa, until the following spring. Some time before bringing his family, he made a trip from Richland to Putnam county and entered forty acres of land in section 1, of Riley township. Benjamin F. Eck, Jr., still has the deed made out at this time for this land. The deed was dated on October 7, 1835, and is signed by Andrew Jackson, then president of the United States. The following spring, Frederick Eck moved his little family to their new home where he had built a cabin during the winter and it was on this old homestead that the children

grew to maturity. In addition to this forty acres, Frederick Eck purchased eighty acres adjoining the original homestead on the south, giving him one hundred and twenty acres in all. This eighty-acre tract was purchased on January 11, 1849.

Frederick Eck was a Democrat and served as road supervisor for several years. His grandson, Benjamin F. Eck, has a collection of receipts, and other interesting papers, pertaining to his office. One is a receipt issued to John Smothers, October 1, 1841, for labor performed in Riley township, the value of which, as indicated on the receipt, was nine cents and six mills.

It was on this old homestead that Benjamin Eck, Sr., spent his childhood. Here he has lived ever since. He passed through all of the pioneer experiences common to his day and generation and is now eighty-eight years old. He distinctly remembers when the Indians roamed this part of the country and when he cut rails in the water. The compensation for splitting rails in those days was forty cents a hundred. Benjamin Eck had to go many miles, in those days, to mill.

Benjamin F. Eck, Sr., was married on August 28, 1856, in Wood county, Ohio, to Catherine Ellen Sanderlin, who was born on September 18, 1836, at Covington, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca (Seaton) Sanderlin. After their marriage, they took up their residence on the old homestead, where they have since resided. Mrs. Eck died in November, 1902. She was the mother of five children, Mary Isabelle, born on June 14, 1857; Eliza Amanda, March 18, 1859; Rebecca Ellen, March 14, 1870; Benjamin F., the subject of this sketch, and William Noah, March 30, 1874. All lived to maturity but all are now deceased with the exception of Benjamin F.

Benjamin F. Eck, like his father, grew up on the old homestead of his grandfather. He attended two terms at the old Webster district school and then attended the old No. 1 district school. After finishing school, he worked out for two or three years, and then returned home to take charge of the home place, which he farmed for several years.

At the age of twenty-six, Benjamin F. Eck, Jr., was married on November 25, 1897, to Effie May Spitter, who was born on March 26, 1874, in Hancock county. She is the daughter of George F. and Kezia (Snyder) Spitter, both natives of Fairfield county. George F. Spitter's father was a native of Pennsylvania and his wife's father was a native of Fairfield county.

After his marriage, Mr. Eck continued to farm the old home place, which has been his residence up to the present time. He and his wife have been the parents of nine children, George F., born on September 3, 1898;

Kezia C., November 3, 1899; Elsie V., January 1, 1901; May M., August 28, 1902; Nellie F., February 18, 1904; Doris L., November 20, 1905; Jacob A., March 22, 1908; Wilbur H., January 20, 1910, and Clarence F., April 9, 1912.

Benjamin F. Eck is a Democrat. He is one of Riley township's substantial citizens and, having come from an old pioneer family, is well and favorably known in Riley township and, in fact, throughout Putnam county. He is a man who well merits the esteem and confidence placed in him by his fellow citizens.

ORVILLE V. TODD.

Among the families of Putnam county, Ohio, whose members have worthily discharged their duties to their fellows and to their community, no family takes higher rank than the Todds, who are today prominently identified with the business and social life of Putnam county. For many years the members of this family have stood for all that is best in business, educational, moral and social life, and they have wielded an influence that is potential in the development and welfare of their community. The members of the Todd family are numbered among the enterprising and progressive citizens of the county because of the prominence which the family has enjoyed and the close relations they have sustained to the welfare and prosperity of the locality which has been honored by their citizenship. They are, therefore, eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

Orville V. Todd, one of the younger representatives of the Todd family and the cashier of the Gilboa Banking Company, was born on December 23, 1869, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Joel and Eveline (Vaughn) Todd. The family history of Eveline Vaughn may be found in the life story of John W. Hixon, contained elsewhere in this volume.

Joel Todd was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on October 16, 1845, the son of Levi and Margaret (Bosler) Todd. Levi Todd was born in Fairfield county, the son of Samuel Todd and wife, both of whom came from Pennsylvania in pioneer times and settled in Fairfield county, Ohio.

In those pioneer times before the railroads were built, Samuel Todd drove a six-horse freight team from Harrisburg to Baltimore. He hauled grain to the seaboard and brought merchandise on return trips. It is related that these teams were driven without lines, much as oxen were driven,

the driver riding a saddle-horse on the near side of the wheel horses. After coming to Fairfield county, Ohio, where his son, Levi, was born, the latter took up the work which his father had followed in Pennsylvania, except that he drove from Harrisburg west to Pittsburgh, and on to western Ohio, coming as far as Findlay and Fostoria. Samuel Todd moved from Fairfield county to the northwestern part of Blanchard township, Putnam county, about two miles south of the present city of Leipsic. Here he spent the remainder of his days.

Levi Todd came from Findlay to Blanchard township and entered eighty acres of land three and one-half miles northeast of Ottawa. Here he remained until the eighties, when he sold out and moved to two and one-half miles south of Leipsic, which farm he finally sold and after its sale retired, spending his declining years with his children. It was at the home of one of his daughters, Mrs. Catherine Smith, of Syracuse, Kansas, that he died about 1897.

Joel Todd spent his boyhood in Blanchard township, Putnam county, and here he attended the common schools, also helping his father on the farm until twenty-three years of age. At this time he was married to Eveline Vaughn in 1868. She was the daughter of John and Johanna (Shriner) Vaughn. After their marriage, Joel Todd began farming for himself four and one-half miles southeast of Leipsic, on a part of the Vaughn estate. He and his wife still live on the farm, to which they moved after their marriage, forty-five years ago. They have been the parents of four children: Orville V., the subject of this sketch; Angie, who died at the age of two years and six months; Arlowa and Franville H. Arlowa is the wife of A. C. Bracy and lives three miles north of Gilboa. They have three children, Cloyd, Delia and Lena, all of whom are at home. Granville H., who died on November 26, 1910, married Constance Young, of Pocatello, Idaho, and lived only four months after his marriage.

Orville V. Todd spent his boyhood in Blanchard township and there attended the country schools until sixteen years of age. He then became a student of the high school, conducted in connection with Crawfis College, where he graduated with the class of 1884. Subsequently, he attended Otterbein University, where he took a special normal course. For fourteen years he was engaged in teaching, first in the country, and finally in Leipsic. Still later he became superintendent of the schools at Bellmore.

After serving fourteen years as a teacher, Mr. Todd took a course in business at the Lima Business College and then took up commercial work for different concerns. On July 2, 1909, he was elected cashier of the Gil-

boa Banking Company, which position he now holds. He was elected to the directorate of this bank in the summer of 1912.

Orville V. Todd was married, at the age of twenty-nine, to Alice Elwell, of Columbus Grove, Ohio. She is the daughter of Hiram and Mary Jane (Ketchum) Elwell. One child, Leslie, has been born to this union.

Orville V. Todd is a Republican. He has been honored with different local offices in the community, all of which he has filled with credit to himself and to the people who elected him. Mr. Todd is a member of Ottawa Lodge No. 325, Free and Accepted Masons, and Gilboa Lodge No. 459, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Todd are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Todd is treasurer.

Not only is Orville V. Todd prominent in the business life of this section of Putnam county, but he and his wife are prominent socially in the community. He is an alert, up-to-date citizen, and is held in high esteem by his business associates and by the community of which he has become so important a factor.

CHRISTIAN BEUTLER.

To come to a new country from a foreign land as a fatherless boy of seventeen, and by sheer pluck and courage and wisdom and judgment to rise to the position of clerk of the courts of the county in which he lives, and to so administer the affairs of that office as to insure a triumphant reelection, to be honored by his fellow citizens by elevation to other positions of public trust and responsibility and to make for himself a place in the community second to none in his county, surely is an achievement that properly merits praise, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to present in the history of Putnam county a brief review of the life in which these achievements are comprised.

Christian Beutler, former clerk of the courts of Putnam county, was born in the republic of Switzerland in the year 1854, the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Schideggar) Beutler, the former of whom died when Christian was eleven years of age. The mother and her five fatherless children came to America and located at Upper Sandusky, Ohio, in 1871, where the boy Christian "worked out" for about five years, and then, in 1877, came to Ottawa, Putnam county, where he and Joseph Meyer engaged in brick-making, their first kiln being erected on the west side of the Blanchard river, near Glandorf, where they remained for four or five years, the industry

thriving. At the end of that time, the brick yard was moved to the north end of Ottawa and Mr. Beutler continued in this business, at that point, until the year 1905, when he discontinued the brick-making business. In the meantime, he had been making good investment of the proceeds of his brick-making industry, in 1897, having bought fifty-five acres of land inside the city limits at the north edge of Ottawa and forty-four acres about two and one-half miles northeast of Ottawa, to which he has given his close personal attention to the management of these farms ever since.

During all this time, Mr. Beutler's engaging personality was bringing him to the close attention of the people of his county, and it was not long until he was one of the best-known and most popular men in the county. He had allied himself with the Democratic party upon reaching manhood's estate, and had taken a close interest in the affairs of his party during the various local campaigns in Putnam county. When his party, therefore, nominated him for the important position of clerk of the courts of the county, in 1894, his election was taken as a foregone conclusion. His administration of the affairs of this office proved so admirable that he was re-elected in 1897 and served his county in this capacity for a period of six years. In other public affairs, Mr. Beutler also took a warm interest and for six years served the public very acceptably as township clerk, while for sixteen years he served as a member of the town council of Ottawa, his acts in this connection always having the public welfare as their inspiration.

Christian Beutler has been married twice, his first marriage taking place in 1881, when he was united to Miss Elizabeth Fipp, the daughter of John and Mary Fipp, both of whom were natives of Germany, and the latter of whom was a well-known mill operator at Ottawa, this county. To this first union, seven children were born, William A., who lives in Leipsic, this county, married Martha Altekruise and has three children, Wilfred, Louise and Carl; Christian J., who died at the age of nineteen; Alexander G., who died at the age of seventeen; Elmer S., who lives in Ottawa, married Adeline Eberly and has two children, Norma and Sylvester John; Joseph, who remains at home; Louis F., who resides in Detroit, Michigan, and Florence G., who is residing at home. The mother of these children died in 1900.

In the year 1902, Mr. Beutler married, secondly, Miss Caroline Kessler, who was born in Coshocton, Ohio, the daughter of Louis and Mary (Wupler) Kessler, who had moved to this county when Caroline was a little girl and located on a farm near Miller City, where they lived until her father was past middle age, when they moved into Miller City and conducted a tavern and

there her father spent the rest of his life. Mrs. Beutler's mother is still living at Miller City.

To Christian and Caroline (Kessler) Beutler four children have been born, Elizabeth M., Martha, Philomena and Lucille, who, with their parents, are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Beutler and wife are devoted to the good works of their parish and to all movements which have as their object the betterment of community conditions and are rightly held in the highest esteem by all their large circle of acquaintances. Mr. Beutler retains a large interest in public affairs and is regarded as one of the most substantial men in the county seat.

JOHN G. CONRAD.

Among the many worthy citizens of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable property, is John G. Conrad, a well-known butcher of Continental. With few opportunities except what his own efforts were capable of mastering, and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made exceptional success in his chosen occupation, and acquired a substantial competence. He has the gratification also of knowing that the community in which he resides has been benefited by his presence and by his many good works.

John G. Conrad was born on March 30, 1864, at Avon, Lorraine county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Barbara (Rattelsdorfer) Conrad, the former of whom was born in Alsace, Germany, and the latter of whom was born on October 11, 1826, in Oberohendorf, Germany, and who came to America on May 10, 1847, at the age of twenty-one. John and Barbara (Rattelsdorfer) Conrad were married in the fall of 1847, in Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Conrad came to this country alone, her parents, Michael and Anna Elizabeth (Zenka) Rattelsdorfer, remaining in Germany. Mrs. Conrad came through from Germany by boat to Cleveland, Ohio, never having ridden on a railroad steam train until the age of sixty-seven. John Conrad, Sr., was sixty-seven years old at the time of his death, having been born in 1833, and having died on December 31, 1890. His wife was eighty-five years of age at the time of her death, having died on December 31, 1911.

John Conrad, Sr., the father of the subject of this sketch, came from Germany to America with his parents. He was the son of John Jacob and

Mary Ann Conrad. They settled at Avon, Ohio, after their arrival and finished their home, partially built, on the land which Mr. Conrad purchased. Here they resided until their death. The elder John Conrad's father, John Jacob Conrad, was a wagon maker, and followed that trade after coming to this country.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Conrad, Sr., nine children were born, Anna Mary, in 1850, died in March, 1912; Josephine, April 18, 1854, died on February 12, 1880; Mary Ann, May 9, 1856, died on May 23, 1865; Anna Francisco, May 9, 1858, died on May 23, 1865; John, May 22, 1860, died on January 7, 1864; Peter, September 12, 1862, lives at Avon, Ohio; John G., March 30, 1864; Anna, April 23, 1867, married Frank Alton and lives at Avon, Ohio; George J., February 12, 1869, lives at Peoria, Illinois.

John G. Conrad was married on November 22, 1887, to Wilhelmina Wagner, who was born on September 7, 1867, at Avon, Ohio, and who is the daughter of John and Treacy (Seibert) Wagner, the former of whom is a native of Germany, and the latter of whom was born at Adrian, Leneway county, Michigan. John Wagner died on June 11, 1911, at the age of seventy-one years and nine months, having been born on September 5, 1839. His wife, who died on May 20, 1880, was thirty-nine years old at the time of her death, having been born in 1841.

To John G. and Wilhelmina (Wagner) Conrad no children have been born. Mr. Conrad left Avon, Ohio, in April, 1887, and purchased property in Continental in May of that year. After coming to Continental he built a hardware store, and ran the same until 1894, when it was destroyed by fire. Two years later he went into the butcher business, and has been in this business since that time. In the beginning he leased the market for three years. Mr. Conrad built a livery barn in 1910 where Continental garage is now located. He operated the livery business for three years, and then traded the livery barn for a farm in Paulding county, Ohio, consisting of eighty-four acres. He still owns this farm. Six months later, however, he began to give his attention to the butcher business again, leasing his market. The building burned, and Mr. Conrad re-entered the business in 1914, and is active at the present time. He has shipped stock for sixteen years, and is more or less active at this time.

John G. Conrad is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Defiance, Ohio. He was the second mayor of Continental and served for six years, from 1892 to 1898. He was a member of the town council for six years and corporation treasurer for four years. Mr. Conrad is a Democrat. He was a candidate for sheriff of Putnam county at the last

election, but was defeated by a small margin. He is a member of the Catholic church at Continental. His wife is also a member of this church. Mr. Conrad is a trustee of the church. He is a highly-respected citizen in the community where he lives, and admired for his many good works.

LEVI P. HENRY.

For more than forty years Levi P. Henry has been farming in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. Born and reared in Fairfield county, Ohio, Mr. Henry taught school in his young manhood, but since coming to this county, in 1873, he has been engaged in general farming and stock raising on his well-improved farm two miles northwest of Leipsic.

Levi P. Henry, the son of Thomas and Margaret S. (Brown) Henry, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on September 9, 1841. Thomas Henry was the son of Levi Henry and wife, natives of eastern Pennsylvania. Thomas Henry was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, and when six years of age came with his parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life. Early in life, Thomas Henry learned the carpenter trade, and by dint of industry and perseverance earned enough money to buy a farm, and, in 1840, felt that he was able to marry. He married Margaret S. Brown. His wife was the daughter of David Brown, who came from Juniata county, Pennsylvania, to Fairfield county, Ohio, in its early history. David Brown was a soldier in the War of 1812, and thereby earned the right to a soldier's claim. To David Brown and wife were born thirteen children, twelve girls and one boy. Thomas and Margaret Henry were the parents of the following children: Levi P., Martha Ann, James K., Margaret E., William B., Thomas H., David C., Robert P. and John K. Of these children, Thomas H. and David C. were twins.

Levi P. Henry was reared and educated in Fairfield county, Ohio, and after completing his common school education, taught school, beginning before he reached his majority. He continued teaching in the winter and farming during the summer season for several years. After his marriage, in 1867, he began to farm in Fairfield county, but, in 1873, decided to move to Putnam county to make his permanent home. He purchased a farm in Liberty township, and has lived on this same farm since that year. Mr. Henry owns ninety-two acres which his son, Charles T., farms.

Levi P. Henry was married on March 7, 1867, to Jennie M. McCand-



LEVI P. HENRY AND FAMILY.



lish, a daughter of Peter S. and Martha R. (Nagmey) McCandlish. Her father was a native of Scotland and came to Virginia when very young. His wife, Martha Nagmey, was a descendant of Irish parents and born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Henry and wife are the parents of four children, David C., Charles T., Anna M. and James Harvey. David C. married Zella Ramsey, and after her death, married Minnie Kroeger. To his first marriage there were three children born, one of whom is still living. There are no children to the second marriage. Charles T. married Mahala Neeland, and has three children, Anna M. became the wife of Harry Polsdorfer, and has six children, five of whom are living; James Harvey, the youngest child of Mr. Henry, died in 1895, at the age of fifteen years and nine months.

Levi P. Henry and his wife were formerly members of the United Presbyterian church at West Leipsic, and Mr. Henry was a ruling elder, and superintendent of the Sabbath school of this denomination. A few years ago he and his wife transferred their membership to the Presbyterian church at Leipsic, and to this they now give their hearty support. Mr. Henry is a man of high character, hospitable and courteous and well liked throughout the community where he has spent so many years.

DAVID F. OWENS.

Among those who are eminently entitled to a place in a work of this character is the gentleman whose name heads this paragraph, who has lived in Putnam county for many years and whose name will continue to adorn its annals long after he has passed to his reward. David F. Owens has performed well his part in the drama of civilization and has led a life that is exemplary in every respect. He has set an excellent example for the younger generation, for he has been a leader in his locality in all matters pertaining to its improvement and progress. In a conservative manner, he has done what he could to promote, not only the interests of himself and his family, but the interests of the community as well.

David F. Owens was born on February 1, 1855, in Guernsey county, Ohio, near Cambridge. He is the son of John Beaver and Rachel (Spencer) Owens.

John B. Owens, the father of David F., was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, on January 6, 1816. He grew up in Trumbull county, but later moved

to Guernsey county. He was reared as a farmer, but taught school for many years in Trumbull, Guernsey and Putnam counties. He was a man of unusual intelligence, for his day and generation, and was widely read. John B. Owens was married on March 21, 1847, to Rachel Spencer, who was born in Guernsey county on February 16, 1832, and who was the daughter of John and Eliza (Sevin) Spencer, pioneers of Guernsey county. To this union were born five children, Elizabeth A., who married William T. Fickle, of Monroe township, Putnam county; Emma J., who married William Gillespie; David F., the subject of this sketch; Amanda, who married David Grant, of Continental, Ohio; Ida C., who married Judson Jones, of Palmer township. John B. and Rachel Owens lived in Guernsey county until 1873, when they moved to Putnam county and settled in Monroe township. They owned a splendid eighty-acre farm and were industrious farmers, prominent in church and Sunday school work. John B. Owens died on January 17, 1890, at the age of seventy-three years, and his wife died on March 26, 1895.

The father of John B. Owens was John B. Owens, Sr., a native of Wales, who came to the United States when twenty-eight years of age. He married Elizabeth Strame. After their marriage, they settled in Trumbull county, Ohio. Subsequently, he sold his property in Trumbull county and removed to Guernsey county, and here they lived until their death. John B. Owens, Sr., was a Jacksonian Democrat. He and his wife were members of the Methodist church. John B. Owens, Jr., was active in local politics during his life and served as township clerk and township trustee for several terms. He was a Democrat and prominent in the work of the Methodist church, as well as in the Sunday school.

David F. Owens was nine years old when his parents moved to Putnam county, Ohio. He was educated in the public schools of this township and on February 16, 1879, he was married to Ida M. Gilbert, who was born in Monroe township on September 15, 1863. She is the daughter of Jacob and Martha A. (Butler) Gilbert, well-known pioneers and prominent farmers of Putnam county, referred to elsewhere in this volume.

David F. Owens has one hundred and forty acres of excellent land in Putnam county, which he farmed until 1892, when he moved to Ottawa, Ohio. At this time he was elected county commissioner. He remained in Ottawa for six years, having served as county commissioner during that time. He then moved back to Continental, Ohio, where he now resides. His farming property is rented. Before his election as county commissioner, Mr. Owens had served four terms as assessor, two terms as township trustee

and on the town council. He is not active in politics now although still a staunch Democrat. He is a director in the Farmers Bank at Continental, and, aside from his banking interests, takes an active interest in civic improvement. Mr. Owens is not a member of any church. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias at Continental, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Defiance. He is a man held in high esteem by all who know him, of exceptional ability mentally, an excellent farmer, progressive in spirit and capable in all things, to which he has ever applied himself.

GEORGE HUGH SEALL.

In a brief sketch of any living citizen, it is difficult to do him exact and impartial justice, not so much, however, for lack of space or words to set forth the familiar and passing events of his personal history as for the want of perfect and rounded conception of his whole life which grows, develops and ripens like fruit and discloses its best flavor only when it is mellowed by time. Daily contact with a man so familiarizes us with his virtues that we ordinarily overlook them and commonly underestimate their possessor. It is not often that true honor, public or private—that honor which is a tribute of cordial respect and esteem—comes to a man without basis of character or deeds. The world may be deceived by fortune and by ornamental or showy qualities without substantial merit and give to the undeserving a short-lived admiration, but the honor that wise and good men value and that lives beyond the grave, must have its foundation in real worth, for "worth maketh the man." Not a few men live unheralded and almost unknown beyond the narrow limits of the city or community where their lots are cast, who yet have in them, if fortune had opened to them a wider sphere of life, the elements of character to make statesmen or public benefactors of world-wide fame. Compared with the blazonry of fame, which some regard as the real stamp of greatness, there is a lowlier and simpler, yet truer, standard whereby to judge of them and fix their place in the regard of their fellow men. During a long life in this section of Ohio, George Hugh Seall has given the people of this community an opportunity to know what manner of man he is. The testimony is ample that he is a good citizen in the full sense of the term and worthy of the esteem which has been bestowed upon him.

George Hugh Seall was born in 1850, in Monroe county, Indiana. He is the son of Henry and Margaret (Butler) Seall. Henry Seall was a native

of Monroe county and the son of Steven B. Seall, who came from Pennsylvania to Circleville, Ohio, and thence to Bloomington, Indiana, where he became the first postmaster of that city. Margaret Butler, the mother of George H. Seall, was born in Wythe county, Virginia. She was the daughter of Frederick Trank and Elizabeth (Johnson) Butler, who moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in a wagon, when she was eighteen months old.

Elizabeth Johnson was a sister of Gen. Joseph E. Johnson, of Southern fame. He and his sister were accustomed to differ hotly about the Civil War. It is a bit of family history that Frederick Butler, an uncle of George H. Seall, was a colonel in the Union army and an officer of the day before the battle of Vicksburg. General Johnson was an uncle of Col. Fred Butler and met him before the battle. Saluting him, he said, "Colonel Butler, how is my sister, Betsey, your mother?" Colonel Butler is said to have replied, shortly, "General Johnson, ———, it is a damned poor time to discuss relationship on the eve of battle."

Henry Seall grew up at Bloomington and was in the mercantile business for many years. Later, he moved to Ellettsville, Monroe county, Indiana, and here George H. Seall grew up.

George H. Seall married Laura B. Sleeper, in 1874, who was born at New Albany, Indiana, and was the daughter of William A. and Melvina (Simonton) Sleeper. William A. Sleeper was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and his wife near Ironton, Ohio. They were married at New Albany, in December, 1851. Mr. Sleeper was a patternmaker, a mechanical draughtsman and a millwright. They moved to Arkansas about 1853 and remained there until the close of the Civil War. They then returned to New Albany, where both parents spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Melvina Sleeper was the daughter of John Simonton, a son of William Simonton, who was the son of Alexander Simonton. Alexander Simonton was a soldier in the American Revolution under Gen. George Washington. He was with a Pennsylvania troop and wounded at the battle of Brandywine. Afterwards, he settled at Sharon, Pennsylvania. William Sleeper was the son of Uriah and Elizabeth (Turner) Sleeper, natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. They moved from Pittsburgh to near Bloomington, Indiana, in an early day and lived there the remainder of their lives.

Mrs. George H. Seall attended the Asbury Female College, afterward DePauw University, where she was graduated in 1871. After leaving college, she engaged in teaching, part of the time in the public schools but most of the time she was an instructor of instrumental music. She made her home at New Albany most of the time until her marriage.

After their marriage, George H. Seall and wife spent about three years in Kentucky, where he was engaged in contracting and building railroad grades for the Queen & Crescent railroad. He then made his home in Cincinnati for nearly two years and then came to Wood county, Ohio, and soon after to Sandusky. They moved to Putnam county in 1879, and located at North creek, in Palmer township, where he conducted a store for about eight years. At this time the land was not cleared, but saw-mills were numerous. The Black swamp was not yet drained. After eight years there, they moved to Continental and built a hotel, the Maple House, which Mr. Seall conducted for twelve years, renting it for some years when, in 1914, he sold it. After leaving the hotel, Mr. Seall purchased a farm which he worked for about three years. He then moved back to Continental and since has lived most of the time there. Mr. Seall and wife frequently go south or take long journeys. He owns considerable property in Continental.

George H. Seall is a thirty-second degree Mason and belongs to the chapter and council at Ottawa, the Knights Templar at Defiance and the consistory at Toledo. Mrs. Seall is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Seall is also a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

Probably less than half a dozen people have lived in Continental as long as Mr. Seall and his wife. When they came to Continental, it was a sort of overgrown backwoods village. Stumps still stuck up in Main street, the sidewalks were made of bark and there were deep ditches. There was hardly a respectable frame house in the town and most of the buildings were just shanties of the men who worked in the stave factory. Standing where the Continental Bank now is, the underbrush hid the view of the old school house which stood where the present brick house stands. While Mr. Seall lived at North creek, he was offered land at eight dollars an acre. The tie timber was taken off, but elm and maple were still abundant. However, the land was considered valueless and Mr. Seall refused the offer. At the edge of Continental, he could have bought land for fifteen dollars an acre when he moved to this town. This land is now almost invaluable.

Descended from substantial American stock, George H. Seall's rather large success is accounted for by his own prodigious industry and foresight as well as by his natural and inherited ability. It is to be remembered that his mother's father, Frederick T. Butler, was a well-known lawyer in his day and generation, a good speaker and a man who was active in getting volunteers for the Civil War. It is also to be remembered that George H. Seall's father, Henry Seall, was a veteran of the Mexican War. Coming from such stock as this, it is not surprising that George H. Seall has made good in the

world. Neither is it surprising that he is one of the leading citizens of Putnam county where he has lived so long. In one sense, men of his type are accidents, the result of a complex sway of forces which happen to focus in their own person, but, after all, to be the focus, the apex, the culmination, the cynosure is a notable distinction and this distinction belongs to George H. Seall.

CLINTON W. FAWCETT.

The Fawcett family, who are old pioneers of Putnam county, Ohio, are of Irish-Quaker ancestry and Clinton W. Fawcett is the seventh in direct line from the first member who came to this country from Ireland, about the year 1740. Thomas Fawcett, the first one of the family concerning whom definite record has been preserved, emigrated from Lisburn, Ireland, about the year 1740, and settled in Frederick county, Virginia. The line of descent from Thomas Fawcett to Clinton W. Fawcett is as follows: Thomas, John, John, Jr., Jesse, Robert B., James L. and Clinton W.

Robert B. Fawcett, the grandfather of Clinton W., was born in Frederick county, Virginia, on December 10, 1819. Before his marriage, his parents moved to Clinton county, Ohio, and later to Logan county, this state, where, in 1841, he married Catharine Monroe, who was a native of Culpeper county, Virginia. She was born on February 15, 1821, and was a daughter of Nathaniel Monroe, who was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, April 11, 1791. Nathaniel Monroe was a millwright, a soldier in the War of 1812, and, prior to his emigration to Ohio, in 1834, was a slaveholder, having obtained his slaves from the estate of John Brannin, his father-in-law. His father, John Monroe, who was of Scottish descent, was a soldier in the American Revolution, in a Virginia regiment. John Monroe's wife was Jane Shackelford. The mother of Catharine Monroe was Catharine Brannin, a daughter of John Brannin, who, in turn, was a son of Richard Brannin, an Irish refugee, who settled in Culpeper county, Virginia, early in the eighteenth century and resided on the Rapidan river until he reached the remarkable age of one hundred and sixteen years. Richard Brannin was an Irish baron and, before he came to Virginia, was implicated in one of the many unsuccessful insurrections to free Ireland from English rule, forfeiting all of his estate, when he was compelled to flee to Virginia. After his arrival in that state Governor Spottswood made him steward of his estate. Catharine Monroe died on March 15, 1904.

James L. Fawcett is a son of Robert B. and Catharine (Monroe) Fawcett, and was born on March 21, 1847, in Logan county, Ohio. When a small child, James L. Fawcett came to Putnam county, Ohio, with his parents, who located at Vaughnsville, in Sugar Creek township. His father afterward bought a farm in section 36, where he resided until his death, on May 17, 1867. In this county James L. Fawcett grew to manhood, and on September 18, 1872, married Elizabeth C. Allgire (nee Hershey), who was born in Richland county, Ohio, May 29, 1840, a daughter of Benjamin Hershey and Fannie (Stiner) Hershey.

Benjamin Hershey was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1802, and his wife, Fannie Stiner, was born near Frankfort, Germany, in 1807. Benjamin Hershey, his parents and his brothers and sisters moved to Richland county, Ohio, in 1835. He was a member of the Hershey family, whose ancestors came from Switzerland and settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1709. This family traces its ancestry back to the year 1535. Later, Benjamin Hershey and family removed to Franklin county, this state, where they resided until about the year 1857, when they came to Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio. Elizabeth C. Allgire and her husband, Alpheus A. Allgire, came to Putnam county with her parents. Her father died in Jackson township on April 12, 1863. After his death, her mother remarried and removed to Riley township. Her husband, Alpheus A. Allgire, in 1862, enlisted in Company A, Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was captured near Dalton, Georgia, in 1864, confined in Andersonville prison until the close of the war, and died at Annapolis, Maryland, in the spring of 1865.

James L. Fawcett, the father of Clinton W., was reared on the farm in Sugar Creek township and taught school for a short time after reaching his maturity. For a number of years he was engaged in the manufacture of drain tile at Dupont, Ohio, and after retiring from this business was appointed postmaster at Dupont in 1893, and served during Cleveland's second administration. He was a soldier in the Civil War, a member of Company E, One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After leaving the postoffice he held several offices in Perry township and is now making his home with his sons, Clinton W., of Ottawa, Ohio, and Ralph D., of St. Paul, Minnesota, dividing his time between them. His wife died on March 30, 1913.

Clinton W. Fawcett, the subject of this sketch, was born at Kalida, in this county, on February 21, 1875. He received a common school education in the schools of Putnam county, and before he reached his majority

began to teach school and followed this line of endeavor for several years in the schools of this county. In the meantime he became a student at the Ohio Northern University, at Ada, Ohio, specializing in science and in law. He completed the scientific course in 1896, and in 1904 completed the law course of that university, and in December, 1904, at Columbus, Ohio, was admitted to practice law.

Clinton W. Fawcett began the practice of law at Continental, Ohio, in 1905, and on January 1, 1908, he came to Ottawa, where he has since been located. He is a man of broad education and is recognized as one of the leading members of the bar of his county. He is active in Democratic politics and has served as clerk of the board of deputy state supervisors of elections of Putnam county. While teaching school in Perry township, he served as township clerk for four years.

Clinton W. Fawcett was married, in 1908, to Martha E. Weible. She was born at Dupont, this county, on November 3, 1885, where she received her education in the common schools of the county and where she taught in the schools of Continental for five years before her marriage. She is a daughter of George C. Weible and Nancy A. Snell. Her father is a son of Henry Weible, Sr., and Mary Will, of Delphos, Ohio, and her mother was a daughter of Albert and Martha Snell. To this union have been born three children, Mary E., Loretta C. and Ralph M.

HENRY D. REAM.

Henry D. Ream was born on January 1, 1850, in Canton, Stark county, Ohio. He is the son of Abraham and Anna (Miller) Ream, the former of whom was born on December 10, 1821, near Canton, Ohio, of German parentage. He spent his boyhood days in Stark county, Ohio, where he was reared. Abraham Ream also taught school and was one of the early settlers of Ada, Ohio. He was closely identified with its growth and history. In his days of activity, he was a leader in reform movements and, in the days of slavery, especially, he was a pronounced abolitionist. He was always a staunch Prohibitionist. Abraham Ream belonged to a class of men to whom the world owes the civilization which it now enjoys. He was the son of Philip and Mary (Altman) Ream, both natives of Pennsylvania, of German descent. His grandfather was George Ream and history chronicles the fact that he served in the Revolutionary War under General Washington. He

was also one of the men sent out to quell Sharp's whiskey rebellion. Philip Ream came to Ohio at the time it was a territory and settled on Bull creek, in Columbiana county. He moved with his family to Stark county, Ohio, in 1806. He died in 1852, at which time he owned three hundred and fifty acres of land. Abraham Ream received his education in the common schools and lived on the farm until the age of twenty-five years, spending the last two or three winters in teaching school.

Abraham Ream engaged in the mercantile business in Canton about 1850, in partnership with Kaufman & Reynolds, and continued until 1856, when he came to Hancock county. Here he engaged in the dry goods business, at the little town of Newstark, having been proprietor of the place. In 1860 he started a branch store at Ada and in 1863 combined his stock from Newstark with that at Ada and from 1864 until 1873, he was prominently identified with the mercantile interests at Ada, Ohio. He started in partnership with his son, P. W., in 1873, operating a general store, a planing mill and a saw-mill in different sections of the town. Later he came to Ottawa, in 1874, and retired from active life in 1876.

Abraham Ream was married in 1846 to Anna Miller, who was also of German descent. Seven children were born to this union, Philip W., Henry D., Mary C., Isaac Newton, Jacob B., Levi O. and Anderson W. Philip W. was a telegraph operator and instructor of telegraphy at Ada College, died in 1901; Henry D. is the subject of this sketch; Mary C. married R. S. Shanks and died on April 13, 1914; Isaac Newton was killed in a railroad strike in 1888 on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad; Jacob B. is a merchant in Ada, Ohio; Levi O. is a funeral director and undertaker at Ada; Anderson W. is a plumber at Ada and also an instructor of telegraphy at Findlay College.

Abraham Ream was not a member of any church, but was inclined toward that of the Presbyterian faith. He was active in church work, contributing liberally of money and services. He died on April 25, 1895, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife died in 1884, at the age of fifty-nine. Abraham Ream was a man of strong convictions and for many years took a decided stand as opposed to the institution of slavery. He was a leader in many reform movements. He did much for the moral, civic and political advancement of Hancock county.

Henry D. Ream grew to manhood in Hardin county, Ohio, and received his education in the Normal College at Ada. He remained at home until the age of fifteen years, when he began to learn the trade of a mason. In his sixteenth year he entered into a contract to build a brick building. He

molded and burned the brick for the house and superintended the construction, turning it over to the owner who was entirely satisfied with the work. Since this time, Mr. Ream has been engaged in contracting and has done a great deal of building in various parts of Ohio, some of his contracts running over forty thousand dollars in cost. Mr. Ream moved to Ottawa, Ohio, in 1877 and purchased the Ottawa Manufacturing Company plant and assumed the management of the concern. This company manufactures sash doors of every description. When Mr. Ream took charge of it, only sash and doors were manufactured and general planing done. Later on turned work was added. Mr. Ream continued in this business for eighteen years and then sold it to Ault & Lee in 1885. Moreover, Mr. Ream had a farm of forty acres in Ottawa township and in selling the plant, took two farms in Monroe township of two hundred and ten acres.

Henry D. Ream took a mortgage on the plant and, in 1887, received the plant back, after which he with his two younger brothers conducted it for about three years. He then bought out the interest of the brothers and erected a brick building on the site of the old plant. Later it was used as an armory. He later sold the building and machinery to different parties in the spring of 1901, having moved to the Monroe township farm in the fall of 1900. Here he followed general farming for about five years and also shipped hay and straw. His farm is a model in many respects, being highly cultivated and fenced with Paige wire fencing. It contains about twenty miles of tile drainage. The greater part of the land is cleared and the buildings are about the best that are to be found in Putnam county. Mr. Ream sold a farm of one hundred and thirty acres, in December, 1910, to the Strauss brothers and, on January 26, 1915, sold seventy-seven acres more. He moved to Continental, in February, 1911, and built his present home, in July, 1912.

Henry D. Ream was married on May 16, 1871, to Miranda Gilbert, a native of Hardin county, Ohio, born on January 14, 1851. To this union four children have been born, Harry C., Alfred A., Lillian L. and Ruth A. Harry C., born on April 6, 1872, married Alpharetta Cunningham, and has four children, Royal G., Robert D., Guy C. and Paul M. They live in Detroit, Michigan, where he is a foreman in the Iron-Clad Door factory; Alfred A., July 26, 1874, married Osa Roberts, and is a farmer of seventy-seven acres of land in Monroe township; they have one child, Mary Mildred; Lillian L., May 16, 1878, and Ruth A., March 6, 1895, live at home.

Mrs. Henry D. Ream's father, Horace Gilbert, was born on April 10, 1805, in Vermont. He was the son of Josiah and Chloe (Barnard) Gilbert, both of English descent and natives of Vermont. Josiah Gilbert was a car-

penter and joiner. Horace Gilbert was educated in the public schools of Canada and Vermont. He settled in Ohio in 1840 and some time in the eighties was married to Sarah Wood, the daughter of Hezekiah and Elizabeth (Savage) Wood. To this union ten children were born, Berthina, the wife of John Shuster, deceased; Horace, deceased; Mrs. Mary A. Walters, deceased; Alvin, deceased; Milanda, deceased; Mrs. Melissa Arbuthnot; Arinda, deceased; Mrs. Laura Ream, deceased; Mrs. Marantha Cross, deceased; and Myranda, a twin sister of Marantha, who is the wife of Mr. Ream.

Josiah Gilbert and wife were members of the Presbyterian church. Horace Gilbert owned the first store in Ada, purchasing the same from the railroad company. He was a farmer and owned one hundred and sixty acres of land. He died on January 1, 1891, at the age of eighty-six years. His wife died on December 25, 1890, at the age of eighty-two. Horace Gilbert was a Republican in politics.

Henry D. Ream is a staunch Prohibitionist. He is not a member of any lodge and, with the exception of the presidency of the school board, has not held any office. Mrs. Ream is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Continental, and has been a member of this church since early girlhood.

GEORGE F. GILLIOTTE.

Few residents of Continental, Putnam county, Ohio, are as well and favorably known as the enterprising business man and representative citizen, whose life story is briefly told in the following lines. None stands higher than he in the esteem and confidence of the community in which he resides, or for the material advancement of which he has devoted so much of his time and influence. George F. Gilliotte, for several years, has been a prosperous, enterprising and successful merchant of Continental. He has a large grocery store, and his patronage has been growing from the time that Mr. Gilliotte went into the store as a clerk, many years ago.

George F. Gilliotte was born on July 17, 1885, in Pandora, Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of George F. and Louise (Gesard) Gilliotte.

George F. Gilliotte, Sr., was born on April 7, 1839, at Vandam Court, France. He left there in 1885, on the 1st of April, and came first to Gilboa, Putnam county, and located on a farm in Riley township. He had been

reared as a farmer and worked here for four years, when he moved to Monroe township, where he bought a farm of forty acres. Subsequently, he sold this farm and moved to Hector, Ohio, about 1891. Here he lived on a farm of twenty acres until his death, March 8, 1901, at the age of sixty-two years. George F. Gilliotte, Sr., had grown to maturity in France, and married there in 1869. There was a family of ten children born in France, four of whom died in infancy. Four children were born after the arrival in America. Mr. Gilliotte learned the watchmaker trade, at the age of sixteen, in France, and followed that trade in his native country, but did not follow it after coming to America. He was not a member of any lodge and held no offices in this country, while in politics he was a Democrat. He was a prominent and influential member in the Lutheran church at Continental, and was a man highly respected in the community at the time of his death. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Louise Gessard, was also born at Vandam Court, France, in 1849. She is still living, one and one-half miles east of Continental, Ohio.

George F., Sr., and Louise (Gessard) Gilliotte had fourteen children, including the four who died in infancy. Ten of the children still survive. They are Mrs. W. J. Keller, of South Bend, Indiana; Mrs. W. A. Millsbaugh, of Continental; Lucian F., of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Mrs. E. F. Dellinger, of Continental; Mrs. Charles Conkwright, of Monroe township, Ohio; Mrs. Wilson Burley, of Crooksville, Ohio; George F., Jr.; Benjamin A., who lives at home; Marie, who is a teacher in the sixth grade Continental schools, and Alfred, who also lives at home.

George F. Gilliotte, Sr., was the son of Pierre and Suzan (Marchand) Gilliotte. Mrs. George F. Gilliotte, Sr., who, before her marriage, was Louise Gessard, is the daughter of Charles and Catherine (Giraud) Gessard. Pierre and Suzan (Marchand) Gillotte were natives of Vandam Court, France. Charles Gessard was also a native of Vandam Court, France, while his wife, Catherine Giraud, was a native of Abbeville, France.

George F. Gilliotte, Jr., the subject of this sketch, was reared and grew up in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio. He was educated, principally, in the township schools at Hector, Ohio, lived at home until twenty years of age. He then began clerking for E. F. Dellinger in the grocery store at Continental, where he worked for four years, when he finally purchased the store of Mr. Dellinger. He was in business alone for three years, when the store burned, but he re-established it the next year on the

present site, and is still active, doing business under his separate name. Mr. Gilliotte has a large and well-stocked grocery, and enjoys a liberal patronage from the people of Continental.

George F. Gilliotte, Jr., was married on June 14, 1914, to Mable Donaldson, who was born on April 1, 1890, in Monroe township, and who is the daughter of Asa and Mary (Taylor) Donaldson. One son was born to this union, on April 7, 1915.

George F. Gilliotte is a member of the Masonic Lodge No. 570, Free and Accepted Masons, at Continental, and of Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 339, at the same place. Likewise he is a member of the Pythian Sisters and the Order of Eastern Star. Mr. Gilliotte is a staunch Democrat, but he has held no offices, with the exception of a membership on the town election board. He is not a member of any church. Mrs. Gilliotte, however, is a member of the United Brethren church. After Mr. Gilliotte's fire, in June, 1912, he took a three-months' trip to Europe, visiting the old home place in France, Rome, and sojourning in different parts of Europe, returning to Continental and establishing his present business. George F. Gilliotte, Jr., is a well-informed man, popular in the community where he lives and admired and respected by all his neighbors and friends.

ORVILLE McDOWELL.

A review of the life of Orville McDowell must, of necessity, be brief and general in character, since to enter fully into the interesting details touching the earnest and persistent efforts of his earlier years and successes of later days, would far transcend the limits of this article. He has filled a large place in the ranks of the enterprising and public-spirited men of his day, and has been an important factor in the growth and development of Continental's industrial and commercial interests. He is a representative of that sterling type of world-workers who have furnished much of the bone and sinew of the country and added to its stability and its institutions. And yet, in spite of the multitudinous activities of his life, he never allowed the pursuit of wealth to warp his kindly nature, but has preserved this faculty and the warmth of his heart for the broadening and helpful influence of human life, being a kindly, genial friend and gentleman whom it is a pleasure to meet.

Orville McDowell was born on September 23, 1865, in the north part of Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Hugh L. and Mary (Ridge) McDowell, the former of whom was born in Licking county, Ohio, on August 12, 1841, and who, himself, was the son of James and Agnes (Bacon) McDowell. James McDowell was a native of Licking county, Ohio, who moved to Putnam county, in 1845, and there died, two years later. At his death, James McDowell was survived by a widow and four children. The children were: Isaac, Hugh L., Jane and Sarah, the last of whom married Joseph Bartoon. Mrs. Agnes (Bacon) McDowell, subsequently, married William Sackett and died at Gilboa, Putnam county, at the age of seventy-four. Mrs. Mary (Ridge) McDowell, the wife of Hugh L. McDowell, was the daughter of William Ridge. She and her husband had eight children, Orville, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest; James W. held various public positions in Putnam county; Harvey H. at one time served as deputy postmaster; David; Isaac Newton; Earnest; Nelson H., and Cortis E., were other children. Hugh L. McDowell was a soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and having participated in a number of battles. He was discharged at Decard Station, Tennessee, August 7, 1863. At one time, Hugh L. McDowell was treasurer of Putnam county and, later, served as postmaster at Ottawa.

After Hugh L. McDowell retired from the office of county treasurer, in the fall of 1883, he moved to a farm, just south of the base line, in Riley township. He lived upon this farm until 1891, and then moved back to Ottawa where, for a time, he was a dealer in live stock. He was appointed postmaster, under President Cleveland, and served for four years. He resumed his trade in live stock, after his retirement from this office, and spent the rest of his life in Ottawa and is now deceased. Mrs. Hugh L. McDowell still lives in Ottawa.

Orville McDowell was about fourteen years old when his father was elected county treasurer and the family moved to Ottawa where they remained four years. Subsequently, his father purchased the farm in the southeastern part of Pleasant township. Orville McDowell attended college at Ada, where he took a course in pharmacy, in 1886 and 1887, and where he was graduated. He was employed as a drug clerk, for two years, and then engaged in business at North Baltimore, Ohio, in partnership with H. M. Nelson. Mr. Nelson was succeeded by Doctor Henry, but after Mr. McDowell had been there four years, in 1894, he sold out and removed to Ottawa, where he was engaged in the handling of fire insurance for about

two years, in the W. F. Zeller agency. Mr. McDowell removed to Continental in 1896 and clerked for a year in the H. A. Neffs store. In April 12, 1897, he started in the drug business for himself. He began by purchasing a small stock at Kalida, which he moved to Continental. He has continued in the business ever since with success and has a good store. During the session of the Ohio State Senate in 1884-85, Mr. McDowell was a page.

In April, 1913, Orville McDowell and his brother Isaac Newton McDowell started a clothing and gentlemens' furnishings store, next to the drug store, at Continental, under the firm name of McDowell Brothers. Since this time, Mr. McDowell has been engaged both in the drug and the clothing business.

For seven or eight years, Mr. McDowell was township clerk of Monroe township. He also served on the council at Continental and is now a member of the board of public affairs. Mr. McDowell is a Democrat, but he is not a hide-bound partisan in any sense of the word.

On August 25, 1889, Orville McDowell was married to Gertrude C. Young, who was born at Nevada, in Wyandot county, Ohio, in 1867, and who is the daughter of Charles and Mary M. (Kennedy) Young. Both of Mrs. McDowell's parents were born and reared and married in Marion county and moved to the town of Nevada, in 1867. Her father was there engaged in the poultry business. Her parents spent the remainder of their lives at Nevada, where Mrs. McDowell had lived until her marriage and at which place she graduated from the high school and, for five years afterward, was engaged in teaching. Orville and Gertrude (Young) McDowell have two children, Majorie and Glenn.

Charles Young, the father of Mrs. McDowell, was the son of John and Mary (Meisner) Young, who came from Maryland. Charles Young's wife, Mary Kennedy, and the mother of Mrs. McDowell, was a daughter of John and Maria (Lorimer) Kennedy. The Kennedys came from Irish ancestry and the Lorimer family from Scottish ancestry.

Orville McDowell and wife are members of the Pythian Sisters and the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. McDowell belongs to the Knights of Pythias, is a Mason and a member of the Knights Templar. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist church.

Orville McDowell has been in business, continuously, in Continental, longer than any other person who lives there. He is well and favorably known throughout this section of Putnam county and enjoys the confidence, not only in a business way, but in a social way, of all the people in this section of the county.

HENRY BURILL.

Henry Burill is a well-known farmer, of Palmer township, Putnam county, who, for many years, was one of the best known and most skillful and most successful carpenters in this section of Putnam county. Mr. Burill is known far and wide for the excellence of his work, for his honorable, upright dealings with the public generally, and today he is one of the successful farmers of Palmer township. He has been honored many times by the people of Palmer township with positions of responsibility and Mr. Burill has well discharged the duties of all of these offices.

Henry Burill was born in the Dominion of Canada, January 23, 1859. He is the son of Silas and Louise (Hoffman) Burill. Mr. Burill's maternal grandparents were Philip Hoffman and wife, natives of Germany, who came to Henry county, Ohio, settling near Pleasant Bend on a farm which they cleared and improved. They lived there until their deaths. Their children were as follow: Jacob, Caroline, Louise, Peter, Philip, deceased, and Jacob, deceased. Henry Burill's father was a resident of Palmer township, in this county. He served as a soldier in the Mexican War and, after the close of the war, settled on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of government land. Later, he acquired eighty acres more and here he made many improvements, erecting buildings and clearing the land. Mr. Burill's mother was born in Henry county, Ohio. After the marriage of Mr. Burill's parents, they moved to their farm, in section 4, where they lived for many years. Their children are Philip, who married Eve Dirr and lives near Pleasant Bend, Henry county; Louise, who married Jonas Rigg and lives near Butler, Indiana; and Henry, the subject of this sketch. Silas Burill died about 1858 and his wife in 1862. They were members of the Reformed church.

Henry Burill was educated in Henry county and in early boyhood made his home with his maternal grandmother, in Pleasant township. He, later, went to Wisconsin and Minnesota, where he remained for about two years. After that he returned to Henry county and at the demise of his grandmother Hoffman, made his home with his uncle, Peter Hoffman. He was married in 1883, to Kate Morris, the daughter of John Morris and wife.

John Morris and wife were born in Germany and came to Henry county where they located on a farm. Later, they settled in Defiance county, Ohio, also on a farm, and here they remained until their deaths. Their children were George; John and Henry, twins; Peter; Conrad; Mary; Catherine and Margaret, deceased. John Morris died about 1878, and his wife about 1881.

They were members of the German Reformed church and their remains were interred in Defiance cemetery.

After his marriage, Mr. Burill moved to Pleasant Bend, Ohio, and engaged in carpenter work, which trade he had learned in his youth. He was in Pleasant Bend for three or four years and, during that time, his services were in great demand. His workmanship was generally admired for its excellence. He purchased forty acres of land in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and on this, he erected buildings. He cleared and drained the land. Later, he acquired eighty acres in the same section.

To Henry and Kate (Morris) Burill were born five children, William; Alvin, who died in infancy; Ernest, Laura and Clarence. William, who is a farmer in Palmer township, married Elsie Wolf and has two children; Ernest, also a farmer of Palmer township, married Ruth Baker; Laura, who married George Dickson, lives near Lansing, Michigan, and has two children; Clarence lives at home. The mother of these children died in December, 1899, and was buried in the cemetery at New Batavia.

Henry Burill was again married, in 1900, to Kate Young, the daughter of John and Margaret Young, who lived at North Creek. John Young died in 1900, while Margaret Young died in 1907.

John Young was a machinist by trade and at one time owned the stave factory at North Creek and also owned saw-mills in various parts of Ohio. John Young died at North Creek, Ohio, and Margaret Young, his wife, died in Wood county at the home her son, Andrew. The children of John and Margaret Young were: Kate, Margaret, Delia, Anna, Henry, Jacob, Fred, Andrew, living, and Christine, Jennie, George, Susan, Louis, Christopher and Elizabeth, dead.

John Young and wife were born in Germany and came to this country, separately, before marriage. He was an architect in Germany, but did not follow this in this country. Henry Burill and wife were married in Amherst, Ohio, and lived there for a number of years. Later, they moved to a farm near Genoa, Ottawa county, Ohio, after which they moved to Wood county, where he operated a saw-mill. He then engaged in a general store business in Wood county, later moved to North Creek, where he lived the rest of his life.

After his second marriage, Henry Burill continued to live on his farm. He and his wife are popular in Palmer township and stand well in the social life of the community. No children have been born to this second marriage.

Henry Burill's two sons, William and Ernest, live on the eighty acres

which Mr. Burill acquired, just west of his farm in Palmer township. Each son farms forty acres. Mr. Burill has served as constable of Pleasant township, Henry county, for three years and is now serving as school director in Palmer township, Putnam county. He was township trustee for two terms and is identified with the Democratic party. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias at Pleasant Bend. He and his wife are members of the German Reformed church. Henry Burill is an affable, agreeable man, a substantial farmer, well liked by his neighbors and intelligent in all of the relations of life.

ERNEST L. HARTMAN.

Putnam county, Ohio, has been especially favored in the personnel of its newspaper men and among the representatives of this profession in this county is Ernest L. Hartman, the publisher and editor of the *Continental Union News*. During late years, he has not only gained distinct success in this business, but he has, through his personal influence, by voice and pen, stood for the highest and best things in the community's life. He has not only gained prestige as an active, progressive and successful business man, but, in a professional way, deserves to be considered one of the best citizens of the community, in the largest sense of the word. The *Continental Union News*, under the management of Mr. Hartman, has always been a booster for local enterprises and has always represented the best spirit of the community wherein it circulates.

Ernest L. Hartman was born on July 14, 1858, in Napoleon, Henry county, Ohio. He is the son of Charles C. and Sarah (Funk) Hartman. Charles C. Hartman was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, and came with his parents, Samuel and Lucy (Holcomb) Hartman, to Wayne county, where Charles C. was educated and where he spent seven years. After this, they moved to Henry county, Ohio, where he taught school. He also taught in New York state. Charles C. Hartman died at Napoleon, Ohio, in 1859. Samuel Hartman, the father of Charles C., was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, and his wife, Lucy Holcomb, was born at Elmira, New York. Lucy Hartman died in Henry county, Ohio. Samuel Hartman died in Salona, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Sarah Hartman, the mother of Ernest L., was born in Pennsylvania and died in Napoleon, Ohio, the same year as her husband. Ernest L. Hartman was the only child born to his parents.

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Ernest L. Hartman grew up in Henry county and especially at Napoleon, Ohio. He received his early education in the country schools of Henry county and graduated from the Napoleon high school with the class of 1877. Subsequently, he read law under Hon. W. A. Stephenson at Napoleon, and was admitted to the bar, May 20, 1882, at Columbus, Ohio. He also spent one year as a student of the scientific course at Valparaiso College, at Valparaiso, Indiana, but did not graduate. From Henry county, Ohio, Mr. Hartman moved to Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio, in 1892, and here he operated a stave and hoop mill. He also engaged in the practice of law. Mr. Hartman moved to Ohio City in Van Wert county, in 1899, and here engaged in the practice of law. He was also identified with the timber business during the oil boom. From Ohio City, Mr. Hartman moved to Continental, where he had purchased the *Union News* plant, August 24, 1907. Several months later he moved his family to Continental where he is actively engaged in the newspaper work and printing business. He has a large circulation in the township and county and a large and lucrative business in job printing. Mr. Hartman is also active in the practice of law in addition to his newspaper work. He taught school in Henry county, Ohio, many terms and also one year in Elkhart county. Mr. Hartman's father and his grandfather and uncle taught at the old Cole school in Henry county, where Charles L., himself, also taught for many years.

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Ernest L. Hartman was married on June 7, 1887, at Napoleon, Ohio, to Mary A. Sheffield, who was born at Napoleon, Ohio, on October 13, 1857. She is the daughter of Edward and Phebe (Brownell) Sheffield. Edward Sheffield was born in Paynesville, Ohio, and educated in the practice of law. He was a prominent lawyer, at Napoleon, at the time of his death and had held several high offices, having been a member of the Ohio General Assembly, county auditor and prosecuting attorney. He died in Napoleon, Henry county, Ohio, in 1865, at the age of thirty-nine years. His wife, who was Phebe Brownell before her marriage, was born in New York state and was the daughter of William and Lydia (Chase) Brownell, both of whom were devout members of the Quaker church, both natives of New York, having been born near Palmyra, where they grew up. After their marriage, they moved to Henry county, Ohio, where William Brownell assisted in the survey of the county. They were among its pioneers and witnessed its development from the beginning. William Brownell was a millwright and a surveyor, both trades having been learned in New York state. Both he and his wife died in Henry county. Mrs. Phebe Sheffield, the mother of Mrs. Hartman, died at Napoleon, Henry county, Ohio, March 12, 1911, at the age of

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eighty-five. She and her husband had four children, Mrs. Ella E. Cowdrick, of Topeka, Kansas; William C., deceased; Mary A., the wife of Mr. Hartman; and Phebe D., of Napoleon, Ohio, who is the librarian of the Carnegie library there. Mrs. Hartman grew up at Napoleon, Ohio, and was educated there, being a graduate in the first class of the Napoleon high school in 1875. She was a school teacher and taught school for fourteen years, ten years in the public schools at Napoleon, two years as superintendent of the Penacook schools at Penacook, New Hampshire, and also at Willshire, Van Wert county, Ohio. At Willshire she was the first lady member of the board of education and was selected as clerk. To Ernest L. and Mary A. (Sheffield) Hartman, two children have been born, Eugene B., on February 17, 1888; and Edward S., April 29, 1890. Eugene B. lives at Toledo, Ohio, where he is engaged in the printing business; Edward S. lives at Napoleon, where he is a city mail carrier.

Ernest L. Hartman is not a member of any lodge. He is a Republican in politics and served as mayor of Willshire, Ohio, one term while he was living there. He is a justice of the peace at Continental and completes a term of four years on January 1, 1916. He is not a member of any church. Mrs. Hartman is a member of the Presbyterian church at Napoleon, Ohio. She is clerk of the board of public affairs at Continental and secretary of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, since 1911, and trustee since its reorganization in 1915.

JOHN WILLIAM HIXON.

One of the conspicuous men from the list of Putnam county's farmers is John William Hixon, a substantial farmer of Blanchard township, and a gentleman of high standing to whom has not been denied a full measure of success. Long recognized as a factor of importance in connection with farming and stock raising, he has been prominently identified with the material growth and prosperity of this part of the state of Ohio. His life is closely interwoven with the history of Putnam county, where he has been content to live and follow his chosen vocation for many years. John William Hixon is an excellent farmer and has kept abreast of twentieth century methods in farming.

John William Hixon was born on August 6, 1858, on the wagon route from Indiana to Ohio, and is the son of George and Mary Ellen (Vaughn)

Hixon. George Hixon was born on August 10, 1830, in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and was the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Cotner) Hixon, natives of Pennsylvania. Samuel Hixon's father served in the Revolutionary War under General Washington. Samuel Hixon died when his son, George was a small boy. The family then moved to Carroll county, about 1842. Samuel and Elizabeth (Cotner) Hixon had ten children, eight sons and two daughters, Jacob, John, Samuel, Jr., James, Thomas, George, Josiah, William, Mary and Susanne. George Hixon was reared by Joseph Sellers, of Carroll county, after he was twelve or thirteen years of age, and remained with Mr. Sellers until he was a young man. George Hixon's mother and the family then moved to Blanchard township, Putnam county, and settled about a mile northwest of Gilboa. Here they remained a few years, and it was here that George was married, when twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, to Mary Ellen Vaughn. All the family then moved to Owen county, Indiana. Here George and his wife remained for two years and returned to Blanchard township, Putnam county, settling three miles north of Gilboa, near the Pleasant Grove church. They lived at this place at the time of their death. The land was covered with timber in those days and they were compelled to cut a road through the wilderness to reach their farm. Here George Hixon cleared a place for their cabin. They suffered all the hardships incident to pioneer life. For a few years the wheat crop was a failure, due to the ravages of the weevil, and the family was compelled to live on corn bread that time. Wild game, however, was plentiful, and included fox, wild turkey, coon, mink and squirrel.

Mary Ellen (Vaughn) Hixon was the daughter of John W. Vaughn and wife, the latter of whom died when Mary Ellen was two or three years old. Mary Ellen Hixon was born on March 12, 1835, in Marion county, Ohio, and came with her parents to Putnam county when one year old. John W. Vaughn was born in 1812, in Culpepper county, Virginia, and came to Marion county in the early days.

George and Mary Ellen (Vaughn) Hixon had four children, John W., the subject of this sketch; Thomas Emmett and Lillie May, twins, and Samuel Marion. George Hixon died in the summer of 1905, and his wife died in August, 1907.

John W. Vaughn, who was Mr. Hixon's maternal grandfather, entered his land from the government. When he built his first log cabin, there was no chimney, but a hole in the center of the roof from which the smoke might emerge. At that time the country was full of Indians. John W. Vaughn

depended on his skill as a hunter to supply his family with meat and to get money with which to pay his taxes. Mr. Hixon's mother often related how the dogs would chase the wolves until outnumbered, when they were forced back to the house and compelled to seek the shelter of the log cabin. She was fond of telling stories about the early Indian visitors, who strapped their papooses on their backs, tied to a board.

John William Hixon, the subject of this sketch, grew up on the old homestead and attended the common schools. He also attended the normal school at Ottawa for one term.

John William Hixon was married on October 16, 1881, to Emma Caroline Rager, who was born on June 6, 1859, in Franklin county, Ohio, and who was the daughter of Adam and Julia Rager, the former a native of Franklin and the latter of Licking county, Ohio. To this union was born one child, Charles Oscar, who married Mary Alice Schafer, the daughter of Ella Schafer. They have two children, Vera Caroline and John Harold. Charles Oscar is farming forty acres of his own and also his father's old home place.

After his marriage, Mr. Hixon farmed his grandfather Vaughan's place for four years, or until the latter's death, and then moved to the Dell Foulk farm, in Blanchard township. Here he lived for two years and then purchased eighty acres north and east of the old homestead. Some years later he also purchased his father's old home place. This he later sold and bought another farm just north of his original eighty. He has continued to live here from that time. Mr. Hixon has always raised a good grade of stock and has been very successful with it.

John William Hixon is a Democrat, but he has never been especially active in political affairs and has never been an aspirant for office. He and his wife and family are members of the Methodist Protestant church. Mr. Hixon joined this church at the age of thirteen and has been active in its work all his life. He was superintendent of the Sunday school for twenty years and chairman of the building committee, as well as the board of trustees, for several years. The Methodist Protestant church, of which Mr. Hixon is a member and in which he is prominent, is one of the most magnificent country churches to be found anywhere. It is a monument to the citizenship of the community.

John William Hixon is a man of genial disposition, affable and agreeable, although earnest and sincere in all his relations with his fellows. He is popular in the community where he lives.

ELAH HARRY BUCKLAND.

There is no calling, however humble, in which enterprise and industry, coupled with a well-directed purpose, will not produce some measure of success. In the pursuit of agriculture, the qualities mentioned are quite essential. Among the well-known and highly-respected farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, who have attained a definite degree of success in their life work and who, at the same time, have greatly benefited the community in which they live, is Elah Harry Buckland, of Blanchard township.

Elah Harry Buckland was born on February 13, 1844, in Licking county, Ohio, the son of John L. and Caroline (Beach) Buckland. John L. Buckland was a farmer of Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was born in Rutland county, Vermont, on June 17, 1817, and died on March 19, 1887. He came from Vermont direct to Ohio in 1852. John L. Buckland was the son of William and Anna (Lewis) Buckland. He was married in Licking county, Ohio, December 16, 1841, to Caroline Beach, the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Hayes) Beach. Mrs. John L. Buckland was born in Essex county, New York, August 13, 1821, and died on November 17, 1910. Subsequently, her parents came to Putnam county and, in 1863, Joseph Beach's first wife, Rebecca Hayes, died in Licking county. After this he removed to Putnam county and three years later was married.

To John L. and Caroline (Beach) Buckland eight children were born, Mary Ann, on November 4, 1842, who is the wife of James Maidlow, of Blanchard township; Elah Harry, the subject of this sketch; Alice Lucinda, October 25, 1845, who is the wife of Charles Gifford Conine, of Blanchard township; Reuben Sanford, September 3, 1848, died on April 21, 1867; Lewis Thare, November 21, 1850, died on March 19, 1912; Sarah Helen, September 10, 1851, who is the wife of George Agner, of Ottawa; John, October 1, 1861, died on April 14, 1863; and Jerusha Caroline, September 16, 1864, who is the widow of Basset Sherrard.

Elah Harry Buckland came to Putnam county, October 23, 1852, with his parents when he was eight years old. Here he attended the common schools. His father had borrowed money to buy his first farm of eighty acres, which cost three hundred and fifty dollars. After completing his purchase, he had just ten dollars left. Samuel Wells, a resident of Licking county, insisted that this was not enough upon which to start farming in a new country and support a family of five children through the winter, so he insisted that Mr. Buckland's father accept a further loan of fifty dollars. His generosity enabled the family to pull through the winter. They lived

on S. P. Weaver's farm until they could build their first log house into which they moved, about the first of the year 1853. It was amid these primitive surroundings that Elah H. Buckland grew to manhood. He remained on the old homestead until he was twenty-three years of age.

Elah Harry Buckland was married on March 28, 1867, to Jane Rebecca Maidlow, the daughter of John and Lucinda (Dowds) Maidlow, who was born on July 10, 1846. Her father was a native of England, who came to Baltimore, Maryland, and finally to Knox county, Ohio, at the age of fourteen. Here he met Lucinda Dowds, who was born in Knox county. Shortly after their marriage, they came to Putnam county in 1835, where Mr. Buckland has lived for sixty-two years. His wife died on January 15, 1901.

After his marriage, Elah H. Buckland started out for himself. He rented a farm of Henry Watts in Ottawa township, but the next year moved back to Blanchard township, on the John Maidlow farm, where he remained for fourteen years. In the spring of 1882, he moved to the John McDougle farm, which he purchased two years later. Mr. Buckland has always raised a high grade of stock and has been a very successful farmer.

Elah Harry and Jane Rebecca (Maidlow) Buckland have been the parents of seven children, Harry L., born on February 28, 1868, who married Dellar Burgett, and has seven children, Everett, Lewis, Lena, Herman, Minerva, DeLawrence and Clitus; Agnes M., March 30, 1870, who married Edgar Deck, whose sketch is given elsewhere in this volume; Mary E., March 29, 1872, who is the wife of John Payne and has five children, Eva, Ethel, Jerusha, Zella and Serge; Samuel, November 25, 1874, died on February 9, 1877; Annetta, March 12, 1877, who is the wife of Harry Deck, and has five children, Garrett, Percy, Elah, Delbert and Raymond; Elah M., April 7, 1879; Martha, November 28, 1882, who is the wife of Thomas Radabaugh, of Blanchard township, and has five children, Alvin, Esther, Hazel Edna, LeVaughn, deceased, and one who died in infancy.

Elah M. Buckland, the youngest son of Elah H., was married to Margaret Pitney, the daughter of Joseph and Ella Pitney. She was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, but her parents were natives of Licking county, Ohio. They came to Putnam county in 1880 and settled in Blanchard township. They had eleven children, Louis, Levi, Alonzo, Effie, Margaret, Mary, Russell, Olive, Josephine, Bessie and Admiral, all of whom are living except Olive and Josephine. Elah M. and Margaret (Pitney) Buckland have had three children, Lela, born on September 9, 1901, died on October 10, 1901; Frederick, September 27, 1902; and Reuben, December 12, 1903.

Elah H. Buckland has reared a large family to lives of usefulness in their respective communities and he is a man who merits the honor and respect of his fellow citizens, for his splendid services as a father, and his upright life as a man. Mr. Buckland has been a life-long Republican. He has served both as school director and supervisor. Throughout his life he has been a member of the Methodist Protestant church and from his young manhood to the present time has been active in the affairs of this church.

FRANCIS MARION WARREN.

Among the citizens of Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, who have built up comfortable homes and surrounded themselves with valuable landed estates and personal property, few have attained a higher degree of success than has Francis Marion Warren. With few opportunities, except what his own efforts were capable of providing, and with many discouragements to overcome, he has made a success, and has the gratification of knowing that the community in which he resides has been benefited by his presence and his counsel.

Francis Marion Warren was born in Hancock county, Ohio, on September 25, 1854, a son of William and Rachel (McConnell) Warren. William Warren was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, in 1820. His father was a Scotchman and his mother was a native of Pennsylvania, having come to Ohio with her parents during her girlhood, where they settled in Jefferson county.

William Warren lived with his parents in Jefferson county until he was twenty-five years of age, at which time he married Rachel McConnell and moved to Hancock county, where he entered government land about six miles east of Findlay. He found his new land in a virgin state and the experiences of himself and his wife were practically the same as those of all other early pioneers. They followed the usual custom of first clearing a little space and building a log cabin. Later, after much perseverance, they cleared the remainder of the farm and placed it in a state of cultivation. Later, Mr. Warren added to his farm holdings by the purchase of a tract of land in the northwest part of Blanchard township, Putnam county.

Six children were born to William and Rachel (McConnell) Warren, as follow: Harriett, the wife of George Anderson, of Endicott, Nebraska, to whom four children have been born, two of which are now deceased;

Emma, deceased, who was the wife of Henry Bowman, of Findlay, Ohio, and the mother of nine children, two of which died in infancy; Francis M., the subject of this sketch; Amilous, who married Eva Jeffrey and who lives on the old homestead east of Findlay; Eva, the wife of Lineous Ewing, who lives east of Findlay; Harvey, who married Edna Glothart, to which union were born three children, and for his second wife, Emma Wyant, by whom he has one child. William Warren died on October 7, 1881, and his wife, Rachel, died on December 1, 1897.

Francis M. Warren lived on the old home place in Hancock county, where he attended the public schools and worked on the farm until, when about twenty years of age, in 1875, he married Ella Albertson, a daughter of William and Justine Albertson. To that union four children were born, all of whom died in infancy. Ella Warren did not long survive her children, and died in February, 1881.

On August 29, 1882, Francis M. Warren married a second time, his second wife being Sarah J. Warren, who was born on October 9, 1856, in Wyandotte county, near Carey, Ohio, a daughter of Andrew J. and Catherine (Spade) Warren. Andrew J. Warren was born in Delaware, Ohio, on August 8, 1831, and died in June, 1892. His father, who died when Andrew J. was a child, came from New York state. Catherine Spade was a daughter of Daniel and Nancy (Breiner) Spade, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and who settled in Wyandot county, Ohio, about 1830. Sarah J. Warren, when four years of age, moved with her parents to Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, about three miles northwest of Leipsic, where she attended school and lived with her parents until the time of her marriage to Francis M. Warren. To that union were born four children, as follow: Clyde, who married Rachel Compton and lives in Hancock county, Ohio; Monroe, who married Gale Hermon, and to whom has been born one son, Francis Lewis; Effie, the wife of Lester Helfer, to whom has been born one daughter, Mildred Lucile, and Miley Ford, who is unmarried and lives at home.

Francis Marion Warren has been a resident of Putnam county about forty years. He is a successful farmer and specializes in the breeding and raising of high grade stock. He is a supporter of the Democratic party and has always been actively interested in political matters. He has served as a member of the school board, in which office he gave such great satisfaction that the citizens of his community desired to elect him township trustee, an honor which he refused.

Francis Warren and wife are both active members of the Methodist

Protestant church, of which Mr. Warren is a trustee. Mr. Warren is a man of high integrity and is universally respected and esteemed by all his neighbors. His success has been entirely the result of his own energy and perseverance and the readiness with which he grasped and developed every opportunity.

WILLIAM HENRY FAIRCHILD.

The man whose name forms the caption of this sketch, is one of the representative farmers of Blanchard township, Putnam county, and is entitled to a place in the history of his county.

William Henry Fairchild was born in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio, on October 23, 1868, a son of Jesse and Louisa (Blakely) Fairchild. Jesse Fairchild was born in Putnam county, August 5, 1840, a son of John and Elizabeth Fairchild, both of whom came from Franklin county, Ohio, in 1832.

John Fairchild was a native of Ireland and came to America with his parents when he was seven years of age, settling in Franklin county, near Columbus, Ohio. A number of years later, after his marriage, and while he was still a young man, he moved to Putnam county, where he brought up his family. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of government land, which lay partly in Blanchard township, Putnam county, and partly in Blanchard township, Hancock county, Ohio. He followed the usual pioneer system of development, cleared his land and built a double log cabin, half of which lay in each county.

In addition to his activities as a farmer, he constructed a water-power saw-mill on Buck run, where he conducted a very profitable business. When his son, Jesse, was about twenty years of age, he took charge of the mill and, at the outbreak of the Civil War manufactured gun stocks for the United States government, for which work he used only black walnut. Jesse Fairchild conducted the mill until about 1878, after which he devoted all his time to farming. He retired about 1895, but still owns the old home place. He was a successful farmer and a man highly respected by all his neighbors. In politics, he was a Democrat. He is a member of the Church of God, in which he has always been an active worker. He is still living at the ripe old age of seventy-five.

William Henry Fairchild grew to manhood on the old homestead and attended the schools of Hancock county, where he remained until he was

twenty-four years of age, at which time he was married and moved to Leipsic, in 1892, to engage in farming, his farm lying just outside the corporation limits. He sold that place and moved to Blanchard township, Putnam county, in 1894, where he bought the McArthur and Grafton farm, where he now makes his home.

On November 26, 1892, he married Uzela Ramsey, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Leffler) Ramsey. Samuel Ramsey was born on November 7, 1811, in Jefferson county, Ohio, and died on November 18, 1889. He was a son of John and Nancy Ramsey. After his marriage, he came to Hancock county and entered three claims of eighty acres each. This farm was later divided among his children. He then moved to two and one-half miles west of Leipsic, where he bought the Bill Edwards place, on which he lived for about seven years. This place he sold and afterward bought the old Swinehart farm, seven and one-half miles west of Leipsic. After operating that farm for four or five years, he retired and bought forty acres near Leipsic, where he lived until the time of his death, November 18, 1889. He died at the age of seventy-eight.

Mary Leffler, his wife, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on May 25, 1833, and died on December 17, 1913, at the age of eighty years, six months and twenty-two days. She was a daughter of John and Nancy (Meirs) Leffler, both of whom were pioneers of Fairfield county. Mary Leffler came to Putnam county with her parents at the age of eighteen. They entered government land just north of Leipsic and developed the farm which they had homesteaded.

Samuel Ramsey was married to Mary Leffler on July 4, 1869, that being his second marriage. His first wife was Nancy Coulter, and to that union were born ten children, one of which died in infancy and another at the age of fifteen. To the second marriage were born Mary Roselle, who died at the age of two years; Uzela, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Uzena, who died at the age of four years, and Uzelus, who died at the age of one year.

William Henry Fairchild and wife now own two hundred and fifty acres of land in Putnam county, all in a thorough state of improvement. On his farm he specializes in the breeding and raising of thoroughbred Duroc-Jersey hogs, a branch of endeavor in which he has been very successful.

To William Henry and Uzela (Ramsey) Fairchild have been born ten children as follow: Corbett Burdell, who married Etta Hazelton and lives adjoining the home place; Harvey Burdette, who died at the age of five years, seven months and ten days; George Odell, who died at the age of two years, eleven months and twenty-six days; Eva Mary, who died at the age of two

years, seven months and seventeen days; Violet Ruth; Alice Elnora, Althea Jane, Chloe Marie, Wiley Homer and Edna Loetta.

William Henry Fairchild is a supporter of the Democratic party and has taken an active and intelligent interest in the political affairs of his community. He has served the citizens for four years as a member of the school board. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is active in all church work, being a member of the financial board of that church. He is a man of excellent character, a prosperous and progressive citizen and is held in the highest respect and esteem by all who claim his acquaintance.

JOSEPH CORFMAN.

It is a well-authenticated fact that success comes as the result of legitimate and well-applied energy, unflagging determination and perseverance in a course of action when once decided upon. She is never known to smile on the idler or dreamer, and only the men who have diligently sought her favor are crowned with her blessings. In tracing the history of the influential citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this sketch occupies a prominent place. It is plainly seen that the success which he enjoys, has been won by commendable qualities, and it is also his personal worth that has gained for him the high esteem of those who know him.

Joseph Corfman was born on November 2, 1848, in Wyandot, Ohio, a son of Conrad and Mary (Riegler) Corfman. Conrad Corfman was born on July 24, 1809, in Fairfield county, Ohio, the son of parents who had come from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania, having later moved to Ohio, previous to his birth.

When he was eighteen years of age, Conrad Corfman moved to Wyandot county, Ohio, and settled near McCutcheonsville, where he remained until 1860. He then moved to Hancock county and settled in Mt. Cory, where he remained for twelve years. He later moved to five miles northwest of Mt. Cory, which was his final place of residence.

Conrad Corfman's wife, Mary Riegler, was born in 1811, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, near Carlisle, a daughter of George and Catherine Riegler, who were natives of Pennsylvania. They came to Wyandot county, Ohio, when Mary Riegler was ten years of age. Conrad and Mary Corfman were the parents of twelve children, who were, Phillip; Barbara; Mary; Jacob; George; Catherine; Elias, who died at the age of four years; Magdalene; Joseph; Lydia; Sophia and Nathan.

Joseph Corfman spent his childhood four miles northwest of Upper Sandusky, Ohio. He moved to Hancock county, Ohio, in 1860, where he attended the public schools and helped his father on the farm, until he was twenty-two or twenty-three years of age. Then, for about ten years, he farmed independently and dealt in live stock on a small scale. During that time, in August, 1876, his father died, and Joseph Corfman farmed the home place for his mother for a number of years, or until the time of his marriage, in 1883.

On April 3, 1883, he married Irena Spahr, a daughter of Jesse and Margaret (Fisher) Spahr. Jesse Spahr was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, on June 21, 1825, and came to Crawford county, Ohio, with his parents when a boy. In that county he grew to manhood and married. During the later years of the Civil War he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served for about a year and a half, or until the end of the war. He moved to three miles north of Gilboa, Ohio, in 1852, where he entered a government farm on which he remained until his death.

Margaret (Fisher) Spahr, his wife, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1827. Her father was a native of Germany and came to Pennsylvania when a young man. There he taught in the German schools until he moved from Pennsylvania to Crawford county, Ohio, during the early days of that county. It was there that his daughter married Jesse E. Spahr. To Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Spahr were born eight children, as follows: Eliza, the wife of William Lindsey, of Perth, Kansas, to whom has been born six children, four daughters living and two sons, deceased; George W., deceased, who married Eliza Blodgett, and to whom six children, one daughter and five sons were born; Oliver F., deceased, who married Loretta Huntsman, and to whom five sons and one daughter were born; Irene S., the wife of the subject of this sketch; Lenora, unmarried, who lives in Leipsic, Ohio; Benjamin, who died at the age of eight years; Effie May, who died when fourteen months of age, and Orvel, who died at the age of ten.

Irene S. Spahr, the wife of Joseph Corfman, was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on April 19, 1853. In that place she spent her girlhood and attended the common schools, after which she took special normal work at Leipsic, Ohio, and at Ottawa, Ohio. At the age of fourteen she began teaching school, and continued to teach for fifteen terms, or until she was twenty-eight years of age, when she married Joseph Corfman. During her years of teaching, she continued to live on the old home place where she was born, and where she was later married.

On April 4, 1883, after their marriage, Joseph Corfman and wife moved to Henry county, Ohio, where they settled six miles northwest of Bellmore. The following summer, Mr. Corfman sold his farm and moved to Leipsic, Putnam county, where, for four years, he operated a meat market. He then sold his market in Leipsic and moved to Mt. Cory, Hancock county, where he again engaged in the meat market business and followed it for two years. He then went into partnership with H. J. Rutledge and opened two more markets in Findlay, Ohio. He then sold his interests to his partner, and for two years engaged in the wholesale meat business until 1895, when he returned to Blanchard township, Putnam county, where he occupied the Spahr farm, at first buying forty acres, and later, eighty acres of that farm.

In January of 1910, Mr. Corfman moved to the northeast part of Blanchard township, on the old Ridge road, where the family now live. Mr. Corfman has improved and developed the farm until it ranks well up among the best farms of his section. He operates it as a general farm. Mr. Corfman has always been known as a man of high ideals and sound business integrity. He is held in the highest esteem by his neighbors and has always held the respect of all who have had dealings with him.

ROBERT W. KISSELL.

Representing one of the oldest and best known families of Continental, Ohio, Putnam county, and a man of enterprising and sterling worth of character, Robert W. Kissell, a well-known produce dealer, of Continental, Ohio, is entitled to notice among the substantial business men of this section of the state, and it is with much satisfaction that the brief sketch of his life career is herewith given.

Robert W. Kissell was born on November 30, 1871, at Columbus Grove, Ohio. He is the son of John H. and Elizabeth (Sterling) Kissell. Mr. Kissell grew up in Columbus Grove, Ohio, and was educated in the common schools and in the high school. He was graduated from the Columbus Grove high school in 1889 and attended Wooster University for two years, during 1890 and 1891. After taking the course at Wooster University, he came back to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and worked for several years with his father in the poultry business. He moved to Continental, Ohio, in 1899, where he immediately entered the poultry and produce business. Mr. Kissell is still actively engaged in this business. He enjoys a lucrative patronage and is a very popular man and a good "mixer" with the people of this community.

He is congenial in his manners and frank in his dealings with his fellow men. He is extremely interested in public improvements and a progressive citizen in every way. Mr. Kissell has a fine home in Continental and is favorably known as a shrewd, able business man and, nevertheless, one who is upright and straightforward in all of his dealings.

Robert W. Kissell was married on March 26, 1902, to Florence Crawford, who was born in Columbus Grove, January 12, 1873, and who is the daughter of Alonzo and Mary (Scott) Crawford. Mrs. Kissell grew to womanhood at Columbus Grove and was graduated from the Columbus Grove high school with the class of 1890. After leaving high school, she attended the Lima Business College and worked for her father in the grist-mill at Columbus Grove. She is now a most valuable aid to her husband in his business. She is an expert bookkeeper and a splendid business woman.

Alonzo Crawford was a native of Union township, having been born near Kalida, Ohio. He died on September 24, 1914, at the age of seventy-six years. Mrs. Crawford is still living at Columbus Grove. Mr. Kissell's father died on November 23, 1912, and his mother died on May 16, 1902. They were well-known and highly-respected citizens of this community.

Robert W. Kissell is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons Lodge No. 570. He is a member of the council and chapter at Ottawa, Ohio. Mr. Kissell is a stanch Democrat. He served as town clerk of Continental for nine years and also as township treasurer for two terms, which office he still holds. Mr. Kissell also served as councilman for one term. Mrs. Kissell is a member of the Methodist church at Continental, but Mr. Kissell is not identified with any church.

CHARLES C. SCHAFER.

The Schafer family is one of the very oldest in Putnam county. The family was established by William Schafer, a native of Koenig Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, who came to America with his parents, in 1854, and settled in Sugar Creek township. This was more than sixty years ago, and ever since that time, members of the Schafer family have been conspicuous in the civic, political and religious life of Putnam county. Many of the Schafers have been farmers, but not all of them. Charles C. Schafer, a representative of the third generation, is a prominent grain and coal dealer at North Creek, Ohio. Mr. Schafer, however, was reared on the farm, but he has been



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES C. SCHAFER.

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engaged in his present business practically ever since his marriage, for a period of about fifteen years.

Charles C. Schafer was born on September 26, 1874, in Palmer township, Putnam county. His parents were William and Mary (Morris) Schafer.

William Schafer married Mary Morris, the daughter of Judge Morris, August 6, 1863, and with his young wife moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, in March, 1864. Here he settled on a farm and here he and his wife resided until their deaths. At the time William Schafer and his wife moved to Palmer township, it was an unbroken forest, and all kinds of wild game were to be seen everywhere. William Schafer cleared the timber from most of the farm with his own hands. He was active in politics and held many offices of trust, most of which came as a consequence of his nominations received by the Democratic party, with which he was identified throughout his life. In April, 1867, he was elected justice of the peace of Palmer township and held this office for twelve consecutive years, or until his death. He also served two terms as township treasurer and one term as township trustee. He was elected county commissioner in 1875, and held this office for two terms of three years each. He served as postmaster of North Creek, Ohio, beginning in March, 1879, and holding the office until McKinley was elected president.

Charles C. Schafer was one of twelve children born to his parents. These children were as follow: Henry P., on September 11, 1864; John S., February 18, 1866; Margaret Catherine, September 19, 1867; William W., December 17, 1869; George Lewis, December 12, 1871; Charles C., September 26, 1874; Sarah E., August 22, 1876; Mary Emaline, June 17, 1878; Ida Lavina, August 19, 1880; Benjamin F., August 11, 1882; Surilda Laura May, July 13, 1884, died on September 1, 1903; and Joseph J., May 19, 1887. Five of the sons and one daughter reside in Putnam county and the other children are scattered throughout different states. William Schafer died on January 1, 1903, and his wife, the mother of these children, died on October 10, 1902.

Charles C. Schafer was educated in the township public schools of Palmer township. He farmed on his father's farm until he was twenty-five years old. He was married on August 14, 1899, to Nettie Ury. She was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Christian and Harriet Ury. Charles C. and Nettie (Ury) Schafer have had two children, Estella H., born on July 5, 1900, and the other died in infancy. Estella H. attends the Continental high school.

About one year after his marriage, Mr. Schafer engaged in the milling business at North Creek. Here he operates a grain elevator. He has built up a splendid patronage and not only enjoys a good trade in this business, but also has a good business in the retail sale of coal. Mr. Schafer is not only popular in a business way, but he is popular socially, in Palmer township. He is now serving as township treasurer and has served as a member of the school board. Mr. Schafer is a Democrat. Mrs. Schafer and her daughter, Estella, are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

HERMAN McDOUGLE.

A prominent farmer of Putnam county, Ohio, who is now living a retired life in Ottawa, is Herman McDougale, who was born in this county more than half a century ago. His parents were early settlers in this county, in Blanchard township, where he taught school for nearly a quarter of a century and where he has served as treasurer of Putnam county, making his home in Ottawa since taking this office ten years ago.

Herman McDougale, the son of John and Eliza (Beach) McDougale, was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 14, 1859. His father was born in West Virginia, where he grew to manhood and then moved to Licking county, Ohio, where he married Eliza Beach. She was born in Essex county, New York, the daughter of Joseph and Rebecca (Hays) Beach, and came with her parents to Licking county, Ohio, and later to Putnam county, where the Beach family located, in 1863.

John McDougale and wife came to Putnam county and settled in the black swamp, in Blanchard township about two miles from Leipsic. They started in with forty acres; a dense forest surrounding his cabin on all sides. He and his wife bore the hardships of pioneer life nobly, and reared six children in the log cabin which was their first home. John McDougale died in early manhood and left his widow with six young children, Joseph, Melinda, Harvey, Herman, Meredith and George. The widow bravely undertook the rearing of these children and continued to reside on the farm where she and her husband had settled the remainder of her life.

When he was fourteen years of age, Herman McDougale started out West with a pistol to shoot Indians. He got as far as Illinois and there found an uncle, William McDougale, a brother of his father. His uncle was a fine man and an influential citizen of the community where he resided.

He took young Herman in and gave him a good home, where the lad attended school, and where his uncle and aunt gave him the same care and attention which they accorded their own family of children. His uncle even paid him for his work, so that, after three years, he not only had the rudiments of a good, common school education, but had been taught to work and save his money. When he was seventeen, Herman McDougale returned to Putnam county, Ohio, and lived with another uncle, John L. Buckland, in Blanchard township, whose wife was a sister of Mr. McDougale's mother. John L. Buckland was born in Rutland county, Vermont, and came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1852, from Licking county, this state. He became a well-known and successful farmer in Blanchard township. He and his wife reared a family of seven children, and in the home of his uncle Herman McDougale lived until he reached manhood. He attended the country schools and applied himself so diligently that when he was through the common schools of Blanchard township, he was able to secure a teacher's license, and for the next twenty-four years he taught school in one neighborhood in Palmer township, and during this time saved his money and invested it in land.

Herman McDougale has been a life-long Democrat, although not a partisan. While living in Palmer township, he served as treasurer of the township for eighteen consecutive years. He was elected treasurer of Putnam county in 1904, and at that time moved to Ottawa, where he has since resided. While in this office, he handled about one million dollars a year, and so ably and conscientiously did he administer this trust that he won the high commendation of his fellow citizens, irrespective of their political affiliations.

Herman McDougale was married on January 15, 1882, to Martha Maidlow, who was born in Blanchard township, and is the daughter of John and Lucinda (Dodds) Maidlow. Having no children, they adopted Bertha, Haveliland and Paul Maidlow, whom they raised and educated. Paul, who married Blanch Bailey, now lives in Oklahoma.

John Maidlow, the father of Mrs. McDougale, was a native of England, his birth having occurred there on February 11, 1812, and, in 1820, was brought to America by his parents who located in Baltimore, Maryland, but later returned to England, where the mother and one daughter died. The father then returned to Baltimore, bringing the remainder of the family with him, where he resumed his trade of brickmason. To his first marriage were born three children, John, father of Mrs. McDougale; Harry and a daughter who died in England. To his second marriage were born three children, Mary, Georgia and Charles.

John Maidlow was reared in Baltimore, Maryland, until he was fourteen

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years of age when he came to Ohio and found employment in Knox county, on a farm. He came to Putnam county in 1837 and entered forty acres of land in Blanchard township, in section 17, and in the fall of that year erected a cabin. In March, 1838, he brought his family to this county, where he lived the remainder of his life. He added to his original purchase, from time to time, until he had accumulated a farm of eight hundred acres in one tract. He erected a fine brick residence and became one of the largest and most substantial farmers of the township. He was a Whig in earlier years, but, in 1856, became a Democrat and continued to vote the Democratic ticket as long as he lived. He served two terms as township trustee and gave his fellow citizens satisfactory service in this capacity. He married Lucinda Dowde, the daughter of William Dowde, to which union fourteen children were born, eleven of whom grew to maturity: James S.; Mrs. Elizabeth Conine; Mrs. Ann Sandel; William, deceased; Mrs. Rebecca J. Buckland; Mrs. Agnes Wolford, deceased; Mrs. Alice Brooks; Alfred S.; Putnam; Mrs. Lenna Huntzman and Mrs. Martha McDougale.

Herman McDougale is a thirty-second degree Mason, and a charter member of Toledo consistory and a noble of the mystic shrine. He and his family are adherents of the Methodist church.

STEPHEN A. KAGY.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails of success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulus to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often attained by simple means and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The every-day life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunities for acquiring experience of the best kind and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self-improvement. In this connection, it is frequently observed that the man who starts with no capital other than his own determination and industry achieves success far greater than that of his neighbors, who started in life with far greater advantages.

Stephen A. Kagy was born in Bloomville, Seneca county, Ohio, on June 6, 1877, a son of Benjamin F. and Barbara (Miller) Kagy. Benjamin Kagy was born in Seneca county, Ohio, on August 30, 1840, a son of Abraham and Elizabeth Kagy, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Kagy moved to Blanchard township, Putnam county, in the spring of 1878, and settled on the Sugar Ridge road, about four miles east of Leipsic, where he bought one hundred and eighty-five acres of farm land. That land he continued to farm until the time of his death, August 21, 1892.

Benjamin Kagy's wife, Barbara Miller, is a native of Germany and a daughter of Christopher Miller and wife. She came to America with her parents when she was a child and settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where she lived until her marriage with Benjamin Kagy. Benjamin and Barbara (Miller) Kagy were the parents of five children, as follow: Stephen, the subject of this sketch; Henry, who married Rena Parker and lives in Wood county, Ohio, and has two children, Vitus and Donald; Nettie, the wife of David Devore, and the mother of two children, Almo and Franklin; Anabelle, the wife of B. F. Davis of Ada, Ohio, and the mother of one daughter, Dorothy; and Myrtle, the wife of Vincent Hill of Findlay, Ohio.

Stephen A. Kagy was only nine months of age when his parents came to Putnam county. He grew to manhood on the old homestead and has made his home there throughout his life. June 9, 1898, he married Ella Devore, a daughter of George W. and Mary J. (Bracy) Devore. She was born in Hancock county, Ohio, March 19, 1881.

Mrs. Stephen A. Kagy's father, George W. Devore, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, a son of William and Fanny Devore. His wife was born in Putnam county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Mary Bracy, both of whom were natives of France. Nine children were born to George W. and Mary J. (Bracy) Devore, as follow: John, who married Dora Reid; Isaac, who married Minnie Osenbaugh; George, who married Electa Ingle; David, who married Nettie Kagy; Henry, who married Olga Cowden; Lillie, the wife of Charles Johns; Samuel, who married Mary Miller; Ella, the wife of the subject of this sketch, and Jennie, the wife of Jacob Miller.

Stephen A. and Ella (Devore) Kagy have seven children, John G., Iva, Imo, Ray, Lawrence, Dorotha and Serge, all of whom are living at home.

Stephen A. Kagy has followed general farming all his life and has met with great success in his endeavors. He started life with nothing, but has improved every opportunity and has developed his holdings until he now owns one hundred and forty-four acres of land, all in a high state of improvement.

Stephen A. is a supporter of the Democratic party and has always taken an intelligent interest in political matters, although he has never taken an active part in politics or aspired to public office. Both Stephen Kagy and wife are members of the United Brethren church and are active in church

work. Mr. Kagy is highly esteemed by all his neighbors and is regarded as being a man of pronounced energy and ability and the possessor of many sterling qualities. He is always found on the right side of every important local question which arises and has done his part toward maintaining the high standard of his community.

JOSEPH BORGELT, JR.

An enterprising and successful young business man of Ottawa, Ohio, is Joseph Borgelt, Jr., who has spent his entire life in this place. His ancestors, on both sides, are natives of Germany, and the same characteristics of thrift and industry which have distinguished the people of Germany have made Mr. Borgelt one of the most substantial of the younger business men of Ottawa. Starting out, before reaching his majority, as a carpenter he has branched out in the contracting business and is now one of the largest builders in the county. He owns a planing mill and lumber yard in Ottawa, where he has been operating since 1911.

Joseph Borgelt, Jr., the son of Joseph and Theresa (Smith) Borgelt, was born in Ottawa, in 1881. His father was born in the southwest corner of Ottawa township, this county, in 1856, and is a son of William and Theresa (Sliter) Borgelt, natives of Glandorf, Germany. William Borgelt and family came from Germany in 1816, and were among the earliest settlers in Ottawa township in this county.

Joseph Borgelt, Sr., was born and reared on the farm which his father entered upon coming to this county, where he lived until 1886, in which year he came to Ottawa, married Theresa Smith and engaged in the saloon business. Theresa Smith was born at New Cleveland, and is a daughter of Jacob and Margaret Smith, natives of Germany. For sixteen years, Joseph Borgelt, Sr., was engaged in the saloon business in Ottawa, at the expiration of which time he disposed of this business and has since been assisting his son, Joseph, Jr. The senior Borgelt built a large brick business block in Ottawa in 1890, which is now occupied by Joseph Brinkler.

Joseph Borgelt, Jr., was reared and educated in Ottawa and, when eighteen years of age, started to learn the carpenter's trade. Within a short time he began contracting on a small scale and, after building two small houses, built one of the largest barns in the county, about two and one-half miles southeast of Ottawa. He put a tile roof on this barn, and so well did

he do the work that the roof is still in a good condition. He bought out Frank Ellis's planing-mill in 1911 and a year later took Mr. Ellis in as a partner. They operated a planing mill and did general contracting in partnership until the death of Mr. Ellis, in 1913. Since that time, Mr. Borgelt has managed the business alone. He added a lumber yard in 1914 and bought an automobile truck in order to better take care of his constantly increasing business to a better advantage. In the summer of 1914, he furnished the building material for four houses in Leipsic, two in Ottawa, and one at Gilboa. He is also building a large business block at Continental, Ohio, as well as some houses near Ottawa. Mr. Borgelt is a practical workman, and thoroughly understands every phase of the building industry.

Joseph Borgelt was married in 1907 to Loretta Nisley, who was born in Defiance county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Henry and Maria (Langdon) Nisley, natives of that county. Mr. Nisley owns a farm near Defiance, where the family make their home.

Joseph Borgelt is a Democrat, but his business interests have consumed so much of his time that he has never been an active participant in political affairs or aspired to public office. He is a member of the Home Guards lodge. Mr. Borgelt is an active and progressive man in business affairs, and is deserving of much credit for the success which has come to him since starting out in life on his own account.

RAYMOND G. CLARK.

Raymond G. Clark is one of the best known young men of Continental, Ohio. He is a young man whose fondness for athletic sport has led him into the field of professional baseball and a brilliant career is predicted for him. Just now he is under contract as a pitcher for the Evansville (Indiana) team of the Central League, and here he is expected to distinguish himself during the season of 1915. Raymond G. Clark is a young man of splendid physique and upright moral habits. He thoroughly appreciates what is expected of the successful athlete of this day and generation and has been wise enough to take the very best care of himself, that he might be fairly equipped for his chosen profession.

Raymond G. Clark was born on October 24, 1890, at Continental, Ohio. He is the son of Lloyd G. and Mary (Noirot) Clark.

Lloyd G. Clark was born at Florida, Ohio, and was the son of Hiram

and Emma (Clark) Clark. Hiram and Emma Clark, both of German descent, were born in Pennsylvania and later migrated to Florida, Ohio, where they were early pioneers. Hiram was a maker of grain cradles and a man of natural mechanical ability. He was also a splendid gunsmith and, in his prime, did much gun choking. It was a fine trade, during his day and generation. He was an expert in the manufacture of cradles and sold many of his own make. Hiram and Emma Clark had a family of five children, Henry is deceased; William lives in Missouri; Alvera is a manufacturer of guns in Toledo; Mrs. Ella Dudley lives at Defiance; Frank, a veteran of the Civil War, lives in the Soldier's Home at Dayton, Ohio, Hiram died at Holgate, Ohio, in Henry county, in 1878, at the age of sixty-nine years, where his wife, Emma, lived as a widow for twelve years after his death and then married Sol. Sands of Leipsic, Ohio, where she lived until his death in 1907. She then purchased property in Defiance, Ohio, and moved there and died at the age of seventy-eight years, in 1911. Hiram Clark lived for some time in Florida, Ohio, and later moved to Holgate, where he followed the carpenter trade until his death. Emma Clark, his wife, was the daughter of Henry Clark and wife, but was not of blood relation to her husband. Henry Clark and wife were of German descent. They came to Putnam county when Emma was ten years of age, where they settled in Ottawa, Ohio, and were early pioneers. Henry Clark was a blacksmith and built probably the first blacksmith shop in Putnam county. He was considered an expert at his trade. He also made picks and handles. He suffered the privations of early pioneer life and often heard the whoops of Indians and the howling of wolves. He did his share toward the improvement of the county and was an industrious man.

Lloyd G. Clark, the father of Raymond G., was married on November 27, 1876, to Mary Noriot, at Napoleon, Ohio. They lived at Holgate for about seven years, where he was a blacksmith by trade. He was an expert. He owned his own shop and later sold it and moved back from Holgate, Ohio, to the farm of his wife's parents, in Henry county, Ohio, where they spent about one year. They then moved to Kalkaska, Michigan, driving overland, with a team, from Holgate, Ohio. It took a week to make the trip. Here Lloyd G. Clark built a new gunsmith shop, which he operated in connection with his blacksmith shop and a candy store. Lloyd G. was an expert gunsmith, also. It seems to be a natural art in this family. He was in Kalkaska county for about two years and then moved back to Henry county, Ohio, on his wife's parents' farm. They spent one year here and then moved to Hector, Ohio, where he again started up, as a gunsmith, where

he also renewed the blacksmith trade. After remaining here for about six years, they moved to Continental, Ohio, where he bought property and followed his trade for about six years. He then took a position as expert gunsmith on a large government boat and was in that employ for about four years, when he died on January, 1899, at Erie, Pennsylvania. He was a Republican and served as postmaster at Hector, Ohio, for about six years. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Dupont, Ohio, but not a member of any church. His wife was a member of the Catholic church at Continental. Lloyd G. Clark was the father of four children, Charles and Emma are deceased; Victor, born on July 4, 1884, married Stella Hulbert, a native of Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio. They live at Hudson, Michigan, and have had three children, Ray, Roland, deceased, and Edna May.

Mrs. Mary (Noirot) Clark was born on May 24, 1861, at Tiffan, Ohio. She is the daughter of Francis E. and Mary (Minnoes) Noriot. Francis E. Noriot was the son of Francis C. and Francois (Raclot) Noirot, Francis C. was born in the village of Boncourt, county of Nanly, department of Haute Marne, France, in 1798, and was married to Francois Raclot in 1823 at that place. They came to America, October 27, 1853, landing at Findlay, Ohio, December 8, 1853. He had a family of ten children, Francis, Claude, Mrs. Anna Little, Lawrence, Mrs. Mary Motto, John Magdalena and Nicholas are deceased. Celestian and Mrs. Velaria Joseph are living. Magdalena died in France. Lawrence came to America alone in 1856. The remainder of the eight children came with Francis C. to America. Francis C. migrated from New York to Findlay, Hancock county, Ohio, and settled there. He was a farmer, at which he worked for a short time and then came to Putnam county, Ohio, where he lived for a time. Later, they removed to Henry, settling near New Bavaria, where he died on September 26, 1866. Francis was mayor of Boncourt, France, at one time. Francois (Raclot), his wife, was born in December, 1800, and died on February 28, 1898. She also was born at Boncourt, France.

Francis E. Noirot, the father of Mrs. Mary (Noirot) Clark, was born in the village of Boncourt, France, and came with his parents, Francis C. and Francois, to America, settling in Hancock county. He remained on his father's farm and educated himself. He married Mary Minnoes, who was born in Belgium and who was the daughter of Peter Minnoes and wife who were natives of Belgium and who came to America, in 1853, when Mary was twelve years of age. They settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where Peter was a farmer and where Mary was educated and grew to womanhood.

After his marriage, Francis E. Noirot moved to Tiffin, Ohio, where he owned property and where he followed the business of knife-grinding. He also made knives. He was here for some time and later came to Putnam county, Ohio, settling on his father-in-law's farm. Peter Minnoes had previously moved from Seneca county to Putnam county, in Palmer township, where he purchased one hundred acres of land which he cleared, drained, fenced and farmed until his death. Francis E. Noirot and wife remained on this farm until the former's death. They had a family of four children, John, Mary, Rose and Katherine, all of whom are deceased. John was a soldier in the Civil War. Mary was the grandmother of Raymond G. Clark.

Raymond G. Clark was educated in the public schools of Continental, Ohio, and attended the high school until eight months before his graduation. He has traveled about the country extensively, having spent one year in the army. His fondness for local sports led him into the baseball arena. He has trained himself for a professional baseball pitcher, has served two seasons as a pitcher for the Central League association and has signed a contract with the Evansville Central League club for the season of 1915 as a pitcher. Mr. Clark has won honors on the baseball diamond and is considered a level-headed, right-handed pitcher. He has a future before him.

Raymond G. Clark was married on August 7, 1913, to Stella Josephine Bachmann, who was born in Hamilton, Ohio, June 20, 1890, and who is the daughter of Valentine and Luella (Huber) Bachmann. Valentine Bachmann was born on December 16, 1860, in Hamilton, Ohio, and is the son of Henry and Mary Bachmann, the former of whom was born in Bavaria, Germany, and who died in 1884. His wife, Mary, was born in the same place. Valentine Bachmann was educated at St. Stephen Academy, in Hamilton, Ohio, at which place he is an expert machinist. He married Louise Huber on June 22, 1888, who died on December 24, 1892. They had two children, Edward, born in 1891, at home, and Mrs. Stella Clark, the wife of the subject of this sketch. Valentine Bachmann is a member of the Socialist party. He is a member of the Bavarian Beneficiary Society and a member of the Catholic church at Hamilton, Ohio. The great-grandmother of Valentine and Louise (Huber) Bachmann's children was a great-granddaughter of John Quincy Adams, President of the United States. Raymond G. Clark is a member of the Catholic church, as well as his wife. On September 1, 1914, he purchased his present business, a restaurant, of his mother, who had been running the same for a number of years. Mr. Clark is a good business man and is well known and well liked for his congenial ways. He is a good "mixer." In politics, he is a Democrat.

Raymond G. Clark's mother was married a second time, in 1895, to Andrew Jenkins. They live at Continental and have no children by this marriage. Mr. Clark's mother is a good business woman and a hard worker. She is a saleswoman of unusual ability and has been in the restaurant business for many years. She opened one of the first restaurants in the town and made a success of the business, and is a woman who is well liked.

GEORGE WINKELMAN.

The parents of George Winkelman located in Putnam county, Ohio, during the Civil War, coming to this country from Germany in 1862. Mr. Winkelman was reared to the life of a farmer, although, since his marriage, he had been engaged in the wholesale business in Ottawa. A few years ago he retired from active life and is now living in the county seat, where he has made his home for the past quarter of a century.

George Winkelman, the son of Jacob and Caroline (Schwab) Winkelman, was born on August 17, 1862, in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. His parents, both of whom were natives of Rhinefalz, Germany grew up and married in their native land. They came to America in 1862, and lived for the first year at Allegheny City. They then removed to Putnam county, Ohio, and settled on a farm in the Black swamp, about a mile north of Elm Center, in Liberty township. The country on every side, at that time, was a dense wilderness, and they started life in the midst of a primeval forest. Mr. Winkelman cleared a patch out of the woods large enough on which to build a cabin, and here the family started life in this country. The mother died in January, 1865, leaving her husband with five children living, one daughter having died before her parents came to America. The living children are, Joseph, Jacob, John H., Stephen and George. In February, 1867, Jacob Winkelman married Mrs. Mary (Hili) Kunkle, the widow of Henry Kunkle. Mrs. Winkelman had a son and three daughters by her first marriage. In the spring of 1873, Jacob Winkelman sold his farm and moved to Tiffin, Ohio, but in the fall of the same year, returned to Putnam county and located at Glandorf, where he lived until his death, in April, 1891.

George Winkelman lived on his father's farm in his boyhood days and early in life became innured to hard, manual labor. He helped his father clear the farm and received his education in the schools of New Cleveland and Glandorf. During the summers he worked out on the farms in his

immediate neighborhood and was so occupied until he was twenty years of age. He then began working in a brick yard at Glandorf, and, for the next three years, continued at this kind of work. He then spent a year in the western part of Missouri, after which he returned to Glandorf and teamed for about three years. After his marriage, in 1889, he became a distributing agent for a brewing company doing business in Ottawa, and maintained a cold storage house where he kept the beer. He continued in this line of business until about five years ago, when he retired from active work.

George Winkelman was married, in November, 1889, to Minnie Schmiedebusch, who was born on a farm three miles west of Glandorf, and is a daughter of John Henry and Elizabeth (Schulte) Schmiedebusch. The mother of Mrs. Winkelman was born in Oldenburg, Germany, and came here with her mother and located near Glandorf among the early settlers. Elizabeth Schulte's father died in Germany. Mrs. Winkelman's father, who was also a native of Germany, came to this country after he reached manhood and settled three miles west of Glandorf. Here he married and he and his wife spent the rest of their lives on their farm west of Glandorf. Mrs. Winkelman is one of eleven children, the others being Henry, Elizabeth, Mary, Katie, Frank, William, John, Bernard, Annie, Minnie and Theresa. Mr. Schmiedebusch died on September 7, 1904, his wife having passed away on October 10, 1893.

George Winkelman and his wife and children are members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. He is independent, but has never taken an active part in the political life of his community. He owns considerable real estate in this county and Michigan.

CHARLES CLINE CASS.

A successful farmer and business man of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, is Charles Cline Cass, who came with his parents from Wood county, Ohio, to Ottawa, in 1870, and has made this county his home since that year. Mr. Cass is a graduate of Wooster University, and a man of high intellectual attainments. After leaving college, he engaged in the grain and milling business for several years, farmed for a few years, and then engaged in the hardware business in the county seat. For several years he has made his home in Ottawa, while he gives his attention to his large farm in Palmer township.

Charles Cline Cass, the son of George B. and Catherine A. (Cline)

Cass, was born at Tontogany, Wood county, Ohio, November 22, 1865. His father was a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and is a son of Levi A. and Lucy (Stanford) Cass. The Cass family is descended from English ancestry, the first members of the family locating in New England in early colonial times, and one of Mr. Cass's ancestors on his father's side, Capt. John Cass, was a member of a Massachusetts regiment in the Revolutionary War.

Catherine Cline, the mother of Charles C. Cass, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, near West Salem, and is a daughter of Samuel and Eliza (Barr) Cline. Samuel Cline was born on January 13, 1809, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and died in Putnam county, Ohio, October 8, 1871. Samuel Cline was a son of Conrad and Catherine (Miller) Cline and his wife, Eliza Jane Barr, was also born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1813. She was a daughter of John and Nancy (Davenport) Barr, and through her mother's family was related to John Randolph, of Virginia. Samuel Cline and Eliza Jane Barr were married on April 9, 1835, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and settled in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1852, about two miles from Gilboa. Mr. Cline became a man of prominence in his community, and was director of the county infirmary for four years, assessor for one year, trustee for five years, and a member of the school board of his township for a period of fifteen years.

After George B. Cass and Catherine Cline were married, they located on a farm in Wood county, Ohio, and Mr. Cass taught school during the winter seasons and ditched and cleared his land during his vacations. A few years after his marriage, he retired from farm life and became a telegrapher and freight agent at Tontogany, and while living there, his son, Charles Cline Cass, was born. About 1867, George B. Cass and family moved to Hebron, Indiana, where he engaged in the hardware business for about two years. He came to Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1870, engaging in the hardware business, in which line he continued until 1883. During these thirteen years in Ottawa he was very successful, and, in addition to his well-stocked store, he became the owner of about thirteen hundred acres of land, and also owned a considerable amount of property in Ottawa. George B. Cass disposed of his hardware business in 1883 and devoted all of his time and attention afterward to his extensive property interests. He was an ardent worker in the cause of temperance, and an active and earnest worker in the Presbyterian church. At various times he was trustee of his church and also served as superintendent of the Sunday school. He was a man of much more than ordinary ability and, although his work as a public-spirited

citizen was widely recognized, he was never a seeker after office and rather avoided publicity of any kind. He was very desirous of seeing all of his children well educated and, before his death, had the satisfaction of seeing four of them graduated from one of the excellent universities of Ohio, while two others were in attendance at the university at the time of his death. Six children were born to George B. Cass and wife, Levi A., Charles C., Catherine, Ora E., R. B. and Lucy B. Levi A. is now the editor and proprietor of the *Western New Yorker*, of Warsaw, New York; Charles C. is the subject of this sketch; Catherine is the wife of Charles C. McMichaels, of Jackson, Michigan. She is a fine musician and has been an instructor in music ever since she graduated from a musical college; Ora A. is the wife of W. C. Morrey, a wheel manufacturer of Jackson, Michigan; R. B. is a newspaper publisher at Aurora, Indiana; Lucy B. is the wife of R. G. LeBrond, who is a newspaper man and was formerly editor of the *Putnam County Sentinel*, and for many years he has been the political writer for the *Toledo News-Bee*, and now makes his home in Toledo. The father of these six children died on July 3, 1895, at the age of fifty-eight, and his widow passed away early in the summer of 1902.

Charles Cline Cass was two years of age when his parents moved from Wood county, Ohio, to Hebron, Indiana, and five years of age when they permanently located in Ottawa. After completing the course of education in his home schools in Putnam county, Mr. Cass entered Wooster University and graduated in the spring of 1888, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Three years later the university conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts. For seven years after leaving the university, he engaged in the grain and milling business at Leipsic. After his father's death, he sold his grain and the milling business and managed his father's large estate until it was divided among the heirs, several years afterward. He then moved to his own farm in Liberty township, six miles west of Leipsic and farmed for three years. He was a large corn and wheat raiser, besides always keeping cattle, hogs and sheep on his farm. After living on his farm for three years, he moved to Ottawa, and for the next two years engaged in the hardware business. He then disposed of this business and has since devoted his time to the general management of his large farm in Palmer township. He was associated with the Ottawa Sugar Company in its agricultural department during the two years it operated its plant at Ottawa, afterward going with the Holland-St. Louis Sugar Company when they took over part of the best acreage written in the Ottawa territory.

Charles C. Cass was married on April 27, 1892, to Ada Timmerman,

of Leipsic, who was a native of that city and is a daughter of Dr. John D. and Mary (Leonard) Timmerman. Mr. Cass and his wife are the parents of five children, Abigail Mildred, George B., John Leonard, Ruth Marion and Charles Timmerman.

John D. Timmerman, M. D., the father of Mrs. Cass, was born March 7, 1839, at Cincinnati, and was a son of Diedrich and Catherine (Meyer) Timmerman. Doctor Timmerman and his wife were married at Cincinnati, June 7, 1859, and settled in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1866. His wife, Mary Leonard, was born in Cincinnati, May 11, 1842, and was a daughter of Jacob and Lydia Leonard. Doctor Timmerman was in the Sixth Regiment, Independent Ohio Cavalry, and was wounded on September 6, 1862, at Washington, North Carolina. After the close of the war, he returned to Putnam county, and practiced medicine and surgery at Leipsic until his death, November 1, 1908. His wife had passed away in January, 1897. Doctor Timmerman was a prominent and influential citizen of Leipsic, from the close of the Civil War until his death, and took an active part in all of the affairs of his community.

Charles C. Cass has always been an active worker in the Republican party, and, while living in Leipsic, was clerk of the village for two terms. In 1914 he was nominated by his party to represent the thirty-third Senatorial District, composed of Wood, Hancock, Fulton, Henry and Putnam counties in the state Legislature, and was elected to that seat on November 3, 1914.

Charles C. Cass and his family are earnest members of the Presbyterian church, where he has been a ruling elder for the past twenty-five years. Mr. Cass is a member of the Masonic fraternity, is a member of the Knights Templar and member of the consistory. He also holds his membership in the Knights of Pythias.

JOHN P. BAILEY.

John P. Bailey was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, on September 12, 1853. Laura Edgecomb, to whom he was married, on September 2, 1875, was born in Allen county, Ohio, on July 16, 1855. The children of John P. and Laura (Edgecomb) Bailey are as follow: Arthur C., born on August 17, 1876; died on November 9, 1879; Maggie M., May 2, 1878, died on October 5, 1880; Lena B., July 21, 1881; Bessie L., July 5, 1884; George E., August 16, 1886; Thayer E., July 8, 1890; Ralph E., December 8, 1893, and Alva E., February 24, 1898, died on February 10, 1914.

JOSEPH C. WANNEMACHER.

Joseph C. Wannemacher is one of those men who win life's battles by sheer force of personality and determination coupled with sound judgment and keen discrimination in whatever is undertaken. Mr. Wannemacher has shown himself to be a man of ability and honor and always ready to lend his assistance in defense of principles affecting the public good. He has ably and conscientiously served the community of Ottoville and vicinity as president of the Ottoville Bank Company, and in other phases of financial, commercial and civic life, and has so conducted himself as to earn the unqualified endorsement and support of his fellow citizens.

Joseph C. Wannemacher was born on December 23, 1861, in Ottoville, Ohio. He is the son of Charles and Stephania (Fournier) Wannemacher. Charles Wannemacher, the father of Joseph C., was born on January 7, 1837, and came to the United States with his parents at the age of fourteen years. He had received a good common school education in his native village. After his arrival in this country and in Ohio he gained the key to the English language by spelling out the signs on the stores and the advertisements displayed on fences till he slowly interpreted their meaning. At Belfast, Ohio, he learned the shoe-making trade, serving one and one-half years apprenticeship and later becoming a competent workman. He then spent a few years in Cincinnati as a journeyman and, finally, returned to Ottoville, where he engaged in business for himself for sixteen years. He kept a shoe store in 1873, and was elected county commissioner of Putnam county, serving two terms. Subsequently, he engaged in the hardware business where he made great commercial progress, becoming one of the prominent and wealthiest citizens of Ottoville.

Charles Wannemacher was married on July 9, 1860, to Fannie Fournier, the only child of Joseph C. and Mary C. (Oberhauser) Fournier. They were natives of the Province of Lorraine, France, their daughter having been born in their native land. Upon coming to this country, they settled in Monterey township, Putnam county. Charles and Fannie (Fournier) Wannemacher, the parents of Joseph C., were stanch Catholics, both dying in the faith, the father on January 5, 1898, and the mother, August 29, 1890.

The grandfather of Joseph C. Wannemacher, who was John Wannemacher, was born in Prussia and was a locksmith by trade. He was married, in his native village, to Theresa Dierringer, and sailed with his wife and eight children to the United States from Antwerp, Belgium, March 10, 1852, in



JOSEPH C. WANNEMACHER.



the ship "Edwina." After a voyage of forty days, they landed in New York on April 23, 1852, and came directly to Ottoville, which contained, at that time, but two buildings, one log and one frame. They settled on a small farm one and one-half miles from Ottoville, living there the remainder of their lives.

Joseph C. Wannemacher, the subject of this sketch, was one of eleven children. He received his education in the public schools of Ottoville, and attended the high school of Ottawa, Ohio, for two years. He also clerked in a dry goods store, at Ottawa, for a time, and after that taught school for two terms. During the summer of 1881, he went to work in his father's store, in Ottoville, and, in 1886, he became a partner with his father in the hardware and implement business. This partnership continued until 1898, when the father died. The business is now being managed under the firm name of Charles Wannemacher's Sons. It is the largest hardware and implement store in the county.

Joseph C. Wannemacher is now, and has been for many years, the president of the Ottoville Bank Company. The articles of incorporation for this bank were signed on September 13, 1903, by F. J. Maehlmann, John J. Miller, J. C. Wannemacher, Alphons A. Roth and F. F. Vincke for the purpose of doing a general banking business and with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars. On October 24, 1903, a charter was given to the Ottoville Banking Company by the secretary of state. The bank opened for business on February 1, 1904. It now has a surplus of twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars. This bank was placed on the roll of honor in 1911. The present officers of the bank are Joseph C. Wannemacher, president, John C. Miller, vice-president, F. J. Maehlmann, cashier, and E. Maehlmann, assistant cashier. The directors are Benedict Wannemacher, J. H. Wannemacher, J. C. Wannemacher, John J. Miller and F. J. Maehlmann.

Reverting to Mr. Wannemacher's parentage, he is the eldest of seven living children, four having died in infancy, John, the second child, lives in Ottoville. He married Katharine Barholzer, and they have two children, Sophia and Alma. Mrs. John Wannemacher is deceased; Jacob F. lives in Ottoville; Stephen lives in Cloverdale; Alex lives in Ottoville and is a partner in a store with Joseph C. He married Anna Jervers and they have one daughter, Dorothy; Fanny lives in Ottoville; Charles died at the age of twenty-two years.

Joseph C. Wannemacher was married on May 8, 1878, to Anna Schneider, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Kieffer) Schneider. Mr.

Schneider was born in Alsace, France, now a part of Germany. Mrs. Schneider was born in Luxemburg. They came to the United States early in life and settled in Crawford county, Ohio. To Joseph C. and Anna (Schneider) Wannemacher, seven children have been born: Martin, on June 24, 1889, graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; Urban F., July 18, 1891, is a tinner by trade and works in his father's store at Ottoville; Monica, June 21, 1893, graduated from the Ottoville schools and is now teaching school; Arnold, December 25, 1895, graduated from the Lima Business College and assists his father in the store; Fanny, November 19, 1897, attends the Ottoville schools; Elnora, November 28, 1899, and Margaret, June 15, 1902, are at home.

Joseph C. Wannemacher is a Democrat. He was clerk of the town of Ottoville for eighteen years and is the present mayor of the town, having taken this office in January, 1912. He was a member of the building committee for the county court house at Ottawa. Mr. Wannemacher is also vice-president of the Ottoville school board. All of the members of the Wannemacher family are devoted to the Catholic church and are prominent and influential in this church. Few families are better known in this part of Putnam county than that of Joseph C. Wannemacher, and few men occupy a higher place in the esteem of his fellow citizens than the subject of this sketch.

COLUMBUS E. DANGLER.

The founders of the Dangler family, in America, were John and Barbara (Kaler) Dangler, natives of Germany who settled in America early during the last century. Their first home on this continent was in Union county, Pennsylvania, where Columbus E. Dangler's father was born. Later, in 1837, they came to Putnam county, Ohio, and settled in section 11, of Greensburg township, where they remained for many years. They were pioneer farmers and enterprising German citizens during the early history of Putnam county. Columbus E. Dangler, a representative of the third generation of the Dangler family, was born and reared on a farm, but early in life engaged in various pursuits. Subsequently, however, he abandoned business life for the farm and is now living on a tract of one hundred and five acres in Jackson township, which he owns.

Columbus E. Dangler was born on May 6, 1859, in section 22, of Greensburg township. His parents were Jacob and Susanna (Guy) Dangler, the

former of whom was born about 1814, in Union county, Pennsylvania, and who, after his parents had brought him to Putnam county, Ohio, lived on the homestead farm during his early manhood. He assisted his father in the cultivation of the farm until his marriage, in 1842, to Susanna Guy. She was the daughter of Jesse and Jane (Schurtz) Guy, who also came early to Putnam county, having established a home here in 1838. They came from Columbiana county, Ohio, and it was here that Susanna Guy was born. After coming to Putnam county, they made their home in Greensburg township, where they purchased and developed a farm.

Jacob and Susanna Dangler had twelve children, Barbara, deceased; John K.; William S.; Sarah E., who is now Mrs. Ayres; Henry J.; Jacob G.; Mary E., who is now Mrs. Ridenour; Anna N.; Columbus E.; George A.; Lydia C., who is now Mrs. Taylor, and Daniel E. Jacob Dangler died in 1886, on his farm in Greensburg township, and his wife died in 1904. The Guy family was of Revolutionary stock, some of Mrs. Dangler's ancestors having in the War of the Revolution fought valiantly against the British oppression.

Columbus E. Dangler was reared and educated in Greensburg township. He lived the life of the average farmer's son and, at the age of twenty-one years, engaged in the saw-mill business. He also operated a portable saw-mill and threshing outfit and did work for a large number of farmers in Putnam county. He was engaged in this business for eighteen years. During this period, however, Mr. Dangler devoted some time to farming. He was married on March 24, 1889, to Margaret Caton, a native of Franklin county, Ohio, and the daughter of Richard and Julia (Cavanaugh) Caton. Richard Caton was born in Franklin county, Ohio, July 4, 1845, and died on August 20, 1906. His wife was born in Ireland, in County Kilkenny, August 19, 1847. She came to America with her parents at the age of eight years. Her parents were Bryan and Mary (Collins) Cavanaugh, who settled in Franklin county, Ohio, where their daughter, Julia, was reared, educated and married. Richard Caton and wife had seven children, Mrs. Margaret Dangler; James, who lives in Pleasant township; Mrs. Mary Deveau, of Defiance, Ohio; John, who lives in Detroit, Michigan; Philip, who lives in Defiance; Mrs. Emma Hale, who lives in Defiance; and Theresa, deceased. Mrs. Richard Caton is still living and makes her home the greater part of the time in Defiance with her children.

After Mr. Dangler's marriage, he continued to reside on the homestead farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in Greensburg township. Of this farm, he owned one hundred and thirteen acres himself and farmed it for a time,

but, in 1902, sold the farm and purchased one hundred and five acres, in section 17, of Jackson township. He remained on the old homestead farm, however, for two years, after buying the farm in Jackson township. For a time, he operated a brick kiln and tile-mill and also a saw-mill on the Greensburg township farm. He moved to Defiance in 1904 and there conducted a wood yard for several years. He moved back to his farm of one hundred and five acres in Jackson township in 1912, and since that time has been actively engaged in farming it.

Columbus E. and Margaret (Caton) Dangler have had three children, Josephine, who was born on October 25, 1891; Alva E., February 2, 1896, and Genevieve, March 27, 1908. Josephine married John Myer and lives in Union township. He is a prominent farmer of this township; Alva E. and Genevieve are both at home.

Columbus E. Dangler is more interested in his home and his family and his farm than he is in participation of public affairs. Nominally, he is identified with the Democratic party, but he is more or less independent in his voting. The Dangler family are members of the St. Michael's Catholic church at Kalida. Mrs. Dangler is a member of the Mothers' Society. The Dangler family are people of pleasing dispositions and all are prominent in this section.

MARTIN GEBHARDT.

One of the well-known, native-born German farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, who was brought to this country by his parents when an infant, is Martin Gebhardt. Mr. Gebhardt has prospered in his adopted country and is a highly-respected citizen in the township where he lives. Since coming to this country, he has married, reared a large family of children and acquired a competence for his declining years. Mr. Gebhardt is one of the large farmers of this township, although a part of the land which he operates is rented. He is a good farmer, a good citizen and a good neighbor and is well liked by all the people of his community.

Martin Gebhardt was born on December 3, 1855, in Germany. He is the son of John Jacob and Margaret (Keppel) Gebhardt. Mr. Gebhardt's paternal and maternal grandparents were natives of Germany and lived and died in that country. Mr. Gebhardt's father was born in Byrne, Germany, and, before coming to this country, had followed farming, and also worked as a cloth weaver in his native country. He was married in Germany and

landed in America in October, 1857. After a brief sojourn in New York city, the family went to Chicago, where they lived for three years. Leaving Chicago, they came to Defiance county, Ohio, and purchased a farm in Highland township, where they remained for some time, when he moved to Richland township, Defiance county, on a farm he had purchased of seventy-eight acres. Here he remained until his death, May 8, 1875. His wife, the mother of Martin Gebhardt, died on August 16, 1912, at the age of eighty years. Their children were as follow: Martin, the subject of this sketch; John, who died in infancy; Edward, deceased; John, deceased; Mrs. Margaret Surprise; Nicholas; Mrs. Wilhelmina Lenhart, and Adolph.

Martin Gebhardt was two years of age when he came to America with his parents. He was educated in Defiance county, principally in Highland and Richland townships. He remained on the home farm until his marriage, which took place on November 13, 1881. He was married to Elizabeth Boehm, who was born in Richland township, Defiance county, and who is the daughter of Nicholas and Margaret Boehm. Nicholas Boehm and wife came from the same part of Germany as Mr. Gebhardt's parents. They settled in Defiance county on a farm of forty acres and remained there until their death.

After his marriage, Mr. Gebhardt rented a farm of eighty acres, in Flat Rock township, Henry county, where he lived for six years. He then moved back to the home place in Richland township and here he lived until 1894. In the fall of that year he purchased a farm of forty acres in Palmer township, Putnam county, which he later increased to eighty acres. He erected buildings and made many improvements upon the land, cleared a part of the farm which was heavily timbered, drained and fenced it. He erected a fine residence in 1907, having erected a barn in 1903.

To Martin and Elizabeth (Boehm) Gebhardt have been born eight children, Cora, on December 3, 1882; William, February 16, 1884; Minnie, July 21, 1886; Ernest, March 23, 1889; Albert, January 12, 1892; Carl, January 10, 1895; Florence, July 18, 1897; and one who died in infancy. William married Mrs. Elsie (Boyd) Grant and lives in Palmer township. They have two children and one who died in infancy. Cora lives at home. Minnie married J. J. Brown, of New Bavaria, Henry county, and has four children living and two dead. Ernest married Agnes Dirr, of Palmer township, Putnam county. The remainder of the children are at home. Mrs. Martin Gebhardt died on August 25, 1900.

Besides farming his own land, Mr. Gebhardt and his sons farm other land. In 1914, with the help of his sons, he farmed more than three hun-

dred acres. Mr. Gebhardt has splendid stock and believes in handling the best breeds of horses and cattle. He has raised Herefords but is now raising Durham cattle.

Fraternally, Mr. Gebhardt is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 745, at Pleasant Bend, and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 869, at Continental. Mr. Gebhardt has held the highest offices in the Knights of Pythias and is now vice-chancellor. Politically, he is a Democrat. He is now serving his second term as township trustee, having been re-elected after serving one term. He has also served as school director and a member of the board of education. Mr. Gebhardt and family are members of the Reformed church at New Bavaria. Martin Gebhardt is popular in the community, an able farmer, industrious and prudent in all the relations of life.

JOHN C. HAUGHN.

Generous and loyal, interested at all items in the welfare of his community and the owner of a splendid farm in Liberty township, is John C. Haughn, who was born in Franklin county, Ohio, July 19, 1843, the son of George W. and Mary (Coonrod) Haughn, natives, respectively, of Virginia and Ohio.

George W. Haughn was born in 1812, and, when twenty-one years of age, came on foot to Ohio and located in the new county of Franklin and there engaged in farming. In that county, also, he married Mary Coonrod, the daughter of Wolrey Coonrod, who was one of the earliest settlers—when Chillicothe was still the capital of the state and Columbus unknown. From Franklin county, Mr. Coonrod enlisted for and served through the War of 1812. In the early days, religious meetings were held at his house, as were also the elections, and he himself was a politician and held many offices of honor and trust. He died in Franklin county, a Universalist in religion, in which faith the family were reared.

The parents of John C. Haughn were of German descent, and reared a family of eight children, Rachel, who was thrice married, first to her cousin, W. Haughn; secondly, to Alexander Adams, and thirdly, to John Duff, of Franklin county, who is now deceased; the second child, Margaret, married G. Ney, and resides in Illinois; the third child was John C., who is the immediate subject of this sketch; James M., the fourth child, is now deceased; Samuel J. lives in Morrow county, Ohio, near Ashley; the sixth child, Mary

C., is the wife of James Wade; George W. resides on the old homestead, while the youngest is Anna, the wife of Richard Stump.

John C. Haughn remained on the home place assisting his father until he reached his majority. At the age of twenty-four, in 1867, he married Nettie Taylor, who was born in Franklin county, Ohio, August 18, 1848, the daughter of Alford and Miranda Taylor, respectively, of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Alford Taylor died at the old Taylor home, February 22, 1902, at the age of eighty. His widow spent her last years with J. C. Haughn and wife, and died at their home, February 26, 1907, aged eighty years, two months and twenty-six days.

To Alford and Miranda Taylor five children were born, namely: Janet, or Nettie, the wife of John C. Haughn; Samuel, of Franklin county, Ohio; James, who died in 1891; Mary, the wife of Charles Reaves, a farmer, and Josephine, the wife of James Bell, also a farmer.

To John C. and Nettie (Taylor) Haughn the following children have been born: Charles E., who lives in Williams county, Ohio, married Bertha Werth, and they have two children, Ira and Mabel; Alford W., who lives in the north edge of Liberty township, married Emma Ebinger, who is now deceased, leaving three children, Arthur, Esther and Cloice. His second wife is Anna Leinsetter, and to this marriage have been born two children, Wilmer and Myron. Isa D., the wife of Joseph Warren, a farmer living on the north side of Liberty township, and they are the parents of five living children, Alford, Nettie, Harley, Sylvia and Florence, and three who died in infancy; Leslie S. married Emma Broomgarth, and lives near Milan, Michigan. They are the parents of six children, Myrtle, Clarence, Johnny, Margaret, Orville and Ruth; Harry S. married Lillie Yenner, the daughter of John Yenner, and they have four children, Gladys, Geneva, Thelma and Wilma. They live near Medary, in Liberty township; Floyd D. married Bertha Snyder, and lives near the central part of Liberty township. They are the parents of three children, Gale, Chester and Franklin; Goldie M. is the wife of Charles Mullett, a farmer living in the south part of Liberty township, and they are the parents of seven children, of whom there are two pairs of twins, Nellie Edna, Harold, David and Barbara, twins, and also Etta and Lettie, twins; Mary M. is the wife of Edward Neice, a farmer on the west line of Liberty township, and they have four children, Oscar, Loretta, Janetta and Bertha; Ruth A. is the wife of Arthur Sterritt, a farmer living in the east part of Liberty township, and has two children, Charley and Farley.

After his marriage, Mr. Haughn first rented a farm, on which he lived

until 1876, when he came to Putnam county and bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of forest land in Liberty township, and which still constitutes a part of his present farm. He now owns over three hundred and eighty-five acres, all of which is in Liberty township. Here he had to fell the first trees in order to secure a seat to sit upon, and here he settled his young family and began his business life in Putnam county. He cleared away a space in the woods, built a log cabin, settled his family in this rude home, and for the first year rented some land and cultivated, but since then has devoted his attention to his own premises. To his original tract of one hundred and sixty acres, he added land from time to time until he acquired his present splendid farm. For the first three years he failed in making crops sufficiently large for his own use on account of a superabundance of surface water, but with untiring industry and good management, Mr. Haughn has succeeded in draining his land and bringing it to a high state of cultivation and productivity. He has made many extensive improvements on the place, erecting a two-story frame dwelling-house, commodious barns and substantial and convenient outbuildings, windmill orchards, etc., and has a most desirable country home in every respect. Mr. Haughn raises a great deal of live stock for the markets, which adds not a little to his annual income, and he is regarded as one of the best farmers in the township.

John C. Haughn is a Democrat, and, as a matter of public duty, has accepted several of the minor township offices, but is far from being an office seeker. He is a man of strictest integrity and of sterling enterprise, and it is such as he who have laid the foundation for the prosperity of Putnam county.

SIDNEY C. DIBBLE.

A prosperous farmer now living in Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Sidney C. Dibble, who has been a resident of this county since 1902. Born in Lucas county, Ohio, he lived there until he was grown and then moved with his parents to Henry county, Ohio, where he lived until he came to Putnam county. He has been a life-long farmer and has been unusually successful in all of his agricultural operations, and now has one of the most attractive farms in the township, and is classed among the most progressive agriculturists.

Sidney C. Dibble, the son of William E. and Martha J. (Taylor) Dibble, was born on February 27, 1861, in Waterville township, Lucas county, Ohio.

His father's history, which appears elsewhere in this volume, may be referred to for further family data.

Sidney C. Dibble was reared on his father's farm, in Lucas county, until he was eighteen years of age. He then removed with his parents to Ottawa county, and while there he worked in a stave factory for three years. Later, his parents moved to Henry county, where his father bought a farm, which was heavily timbered. Sidney C. and his brother, William W., helped their father to clear this land and put it under cultivation. In this county Sidney C. Dibble grew to manhood, married and began to farm for himself. He and his brother bought a farm of their own in partnership in Bartlow township, Henry county, in 1887, each paying one hundred dollars as the first payment. They leased it for two years to a tenant and then Sidney lived upon it himself for one year. The brothers then traded the farm for a tract of land in Marion township, where the family had previously lived, and on this farm Sidney C. Dibble lived until 1902, at which time he sold it and bought a farm in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. This farm was known as the Dan Butler farm and was located about six miles northwest of Leipsic. After living on it for about ten years, he sold it and bought a farm, of one hundred and four acres, adjoining the town of Leipsic, and here he has since resided. He built a fine country home and also has a large and commodious barn on the farm. He engages in diversified farming, and handles as much stock as he can feed on his own farm.

Sidney C. Dibble was married in 1885 to Louisa Delanoy, who was born in Marion township, Henry county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Peter and Keziah (Clark) Delanoy. Her father was born in Schenectady, New York, near the Catskill mountains, and was a cooper by trade, although, after his marriage, he went to farming. Peter Delanoy and his wife moved to Henry county, Ohio, in 1861, and in 1864 Mr. Delanoy enlisted in the Civil War, but was taken down with typhoid fever and discharged on account of disability. After returning from the war, he farmed the rest of his life in Henry county, where his death occurred about fifteen years ago, his wife passing away about four years later. Keziah Clark, the wife of Mr. Delanoy, was born at Peterborough, England, and was a daughter of William Clark and wife. She came to America at the age of sixteen with her parents and located in Huron county, Ohio, where she was living when she married Mr. Delanoy.

Sidney C. and Louisa (Delanoy) Dibble have one son, Ray M., who was born in 1892. They are justly proud of the record which their son has made. After graduating from the Leipsic high school, he entered Ohio State Uni-

versity and graduated in the agricultural course in 1914, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. While in college, he took part in the various activities of college life in addition to his regular college work. He was secretary of the Commons Club, and was a member of the Methodist students' council. He won second prize, in 1912, in the individual drill in the cadets, an organization which includes a thousand students. While in the university, he joined the Students Volunteer Band, each member of which is pledged to do foreign missionary work if God permits. He was also active in the teaching of foreigners the use of English and arithmetic. He also taught colored boys, at the mission school in Columbus, and had charge of the games room. He was interested in social service work and took an active part in everything which pertained to the uplift of those less fortunate in life. Ray is of a decided literary turn of mind and has written quite a number of contributed articles for the home papers. He was formerly exchange editor of the *Ohio State Weekly*, at Columbus, but upon entering Ada Normal University, in the fall of 1914, he surrendered this position. He is now taking a course in public speaking at Ada with the intention of entering professional life.

Sidney C. Dibble and his family are all loyal members and active workers in the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Dibble is a woman of education and refinement, and after attending the high school at Leipsic, taught school for three years in Putnam county. Mr. Dibble is a member of the Patrons of Husbandry at Leipsic.

HENRY W. RUHE.

Among the distinguished citizens of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Henry W. Ruhe, who is a son of one of the earliest pioneers of Putnam county.

Henry W. Ruhe was born in section 32, south of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1849, the son of Gerhardt Joseph and Mary Anna (Musing) Ruhe. Gerhardt Joseph Ruhe was born in Saarbeck, Germany, November 2, 1812, and died at the age of sixty-six years, December 29, 1878, on his farm south of Glandorf. He came to America in 1833 or 1834, but was married in the old country to Mary Anna Musing, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Musing. Upon coming to America, he located at once on his farm in Ottawa township, which he entered from the government. There were hordes of Indians in Putnam county at that time, and no roads had been built. In the beginning, Mr. Ruhe worked on the canal in the spring and summer and the

women at home did the planting, using hoe, spade or shovel, instead of the plow. The rich soil produced abundantly. In winter, they worked at clearing the timber from the land. Mr. Ruhe entered eighty acres, and later bought another eighty, and spent his entire life on this farm. There were twelve children in the family, of whom six grew to maturity: Barney; Mrs. Theresa Hinker; Mrs. Josephine Knueve, deceased; Henry William; Mrs. Catherine Wortkoetter and Anthony B. The father of these children died on December 29, 1878, and the mother died on August 29, 1896.

Henry W. Ruhe was married to Barbara Koenig, February 7, 1877. She was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, the daughter of Charles and Matilda (Kastel) Koenig. Her parents came from Bavaria, and were early settlers where she was born. Eight children were born to Mr. Ruhe's first marriage, Joseph, who lives in Pleasant township, married Veronica Ricker, and they have five children, Clara, George, William, Albert and Paul; Mary Anna is the wife of Henry Klemen and lives north of Ottawa, in Ottawa township; Henry, a farmer of Monroe township, near Continental, married Hannah Bensman, and they have three children, Alex, Marcella and Henry; John unmarried, lives in Missouri; Charles, a farmer of Pleasant township, married Emma Ricker, and lives in Pleasant township, and they have one son, Rudolph; Josephine, the wife of Joseph Klemen, a farmer of Pleasant township, has three children, Peter, Alexander and Sylvester; Theresa is the wife of John Segar, a farmer of Pleasant township; Rosa, unmarried, lives at home. The mother of these children died on June 4, 1897, at the age of thirty-nine years and nine months.

Henry W. Ruhe was married, the second time, on June 20, 1898, to Mrs. Mary Anna (Fredericks) Fortman. She was born in Prussia, Hanover, Germany, a daughter of Bernard Henry Fredericks and wife. She came to America with her parents about 1874, and settled near Zanesville, Ohio, near Junction City, where she married Henry Felt. He died, leaving one son, Benny, now also deceased, his death occurring when he was fifteen years of age. Mrs. Felt afterward moved to Columbus Grove, and there married Henry Fortman, who was working for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway Company. They moved to Ottawa and lived in that city until Mr. Fortman's death, on December 18, 1886. There were two children born to this second marriage, Maria Anna, the wife of Isaac McDowell, who lives at Continental, and a son, who died in early infancy.

Henry W. Ruhe still lives on the same farm where he was born and where he grew to manhood. His farm has never been owned by anyone but his father and himself since the Indians gave way to the white men. The

Ruhe family has cleared this land and has made a farm and home here, of which they are proud. They are well-known and highly respected in the community where they have lived so long.

The entire family are devoted members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. Mr. Ruhe's father helped to build the first log cabin church at Glandorf, where the first altar was erected by the pioneers in the wilderness. He also helped to build the second edifice and the third one, and his earthly life ended while he was in the church.

There are very few families who have contributed more to make Putnam county the rich agricultural section it is now, than that of the Ruhe family.

FRANK F. DROLL.

The following is a brief sketch of the life of one, who, by close attention to business, has achieved marked success in the agricultural affairs of Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. His career is a plain record rendered remarkable by no strange or mysterious adventure, no wonderful and lucky accident and no tragic situation. Frank F. Droll is one of those estimable characters whose integrity and strong personality have gained for them meritorious recognition which their modesty does not seek. He commands the respect of the people of Perry township, and has left his mark upon the generation in which he is now living.

Frank F. Droll was born on April 17, 1866, in Seneca county, Ohio. He is the son of George and Catherine (Brown) Droll.

George Droll was born in Germany, and came to America at the age of nineteen, with his parents, George and Gertrude Droll. They settled in Seneca county, Ohio, and were farmers there. George Droll, Jr., grew up on this farm and lived upon it until some time after his marriage. He, later, sold his property and moved to near New Riegel, in Seneca county, Ohio. Here he purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty acres, and worked this land for some time. Later, he sold sixty acres and farmed the remaining one hundred and sixty acres until about twenty years before he died, when he moved to New Riegel, Ohio, and there passed his remaining days. He died on December 25, 1913, at the age of eighty-six years and five months, having been born on July 11, 1825. His wife, before her marriage, was Catherine Brown, was born on January 1, 1833, and died April 18, 1914, at the age of eighty-one. She died at their home in New Riegel, Ohio, a much respected and greatly beloved woman.

George, Jr., and Catherine (Brown) Droll were the parents of twelve children, Joseph is deceased; Mrs. Mary Brickner died in 1914; John lives on the homestead farm in Seneca county; Catherine was the fourth child; Mrs. Rosa Lichtle lives in Seneca county; Matilda is deceased; Frank F. is the subject of this sketch; William lives in Seneca county; Killian lives in Perry township, Putnam county; Edward lives in the West; Mrs. Anna Brant lives in Seneca county, and Mrs. Maggie Brant in Lorrain, Ohio. George Droll, Jr., was an ardent Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church at New Riegel. His wife, also, was a member of this church.

Frank F. Droll spent his boyhood days on the homestead farm in Seneca county, Ohio. He was educated there and reared as a farmer. He left home at the age of twenty-one years and worked out for a time. He came to Putnam county in April, 1896, and for a time lived with a brother, Killian, they having purchased a farm of eighty acres together, in Perry township, where Frank F. now lives. Later, Killian sold his half interest to Frank F. Droll. After Mr. Droll married, he farmed the entire eighty acres. There was much timber on the farm when he bought the land. Mr. Droll did most of the clearing, fencing and ditching. Since purchasing the farm he has built a fine residence and a large, commodious barn, the latter erected July, 1909, is thirty-six by sixty-six feet. He owns a splendid home and the farm is neatly kept, which shows the fine progressive spirit of its owner. Mr. Droll is a hard worker and his success must be attributed to his unconquerable perseverance from the beginning. With the help of his faithful wife, he has gained a rather large competence, and has been entirely victorious in his struggle for success.

Frank F. Droll was married on November 18, 1896, to Matilda Shirack, who was born on August 27, 1870, in Van Wert county, Ohio. She is the daughter of John and Catherine (Schulien) Shirack, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former born June 24, 1840, and the latter on August 25, 1845. Both came to America with their parents when quite young, who settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where they farmed till their death. John Shirack grew up in Seneca county, Ohio, and was reared as a farmer and it was here that he received his education. Subsequently, he came to Van Wert county, where he passed the remainder of his days. He died on June 13, 1911, at the age of seventy years, eleven months and twenty days. He was a Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church at Ottoville, Ohio. His wife was also a member of that church. She died on December 19, 1906, at the age of sixty-one years and three months. They had nine children, John; Mrs. Mary Grubenhoff, of Ottoville, Monterey township, Putnam

county; Mrs. Catherine Eickholt, of Monterey township, Putnam county; Mrs. Frank F. Droll; Mrs. Anna Kehres, of Delphos; Mrs. Emma Sheibley, of Cloverdale; Mrs. Margaret Wannamacker, of Cloverdale; Joseph, of Delphos, and one who died in infancy.

To Frank F. and Matilda (Shirack) Droll eight children have been born: Raymond, on February 20, 1898; Edith, September 1, 1899; Eva, November 9, 1900; Alvira, March 16, 1903; Wilfred, October 27, 1905; Joseph, November 15, 1907; Mary, December 27, 1909, and Gertrude, November 9, 1912. All of these children are living at home.

Frank F. Droll is not a member of any lodge, and he has never aspired to office. He is a member of St. Barbara's Catholic church at Cloverdale, Ohio, as well as his wife and family. Frank F. Droll is a congenial man, easy-going in his manner, and sociable. He is a man of strong domestic habits, a home lover, a fine husband and father and a good provider. He bears a high reputation in the community where he lives.

JOHN H. KLEMAN.

It is a pleasure to the biographer to record the lives of prosperous men, men who have honored their community and who are loved by their fellow men. They inspire the coming generation, as well as the present, and justly deserved mention in such a work as this. One of the most influential citizens of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is John H. Kleman.

John H. Kleman was born on March 28, 1852, on the farm where he now lives in the southwestern part of Ottawa township. He is the son of Andrew and Mary C. (Gerdeman) Kleman. Andrew Kleman was born in Prussia in 1805, and was a trained soldier under the grandfather of the present German kaiser. He came to America about 1835 and located near, or at, Glandorf, Putnam county, when Indians were still in the vicinity. He was a farmer. Here he married Mary C. (Gerdeman) Utendorf, the widow of Joseph Utendorf, deceased. She was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1811, and came to America and spent her first winter at Toledo, at the time the first railroad reached that city. She then came to Glandorf and married Joseph Utendorf and they lived on the farm where John H. now lives until Mr. Utendorf's death. There were two children by her first marriage, Joseph and Mary Ann, the former dying in 1885. Mary Ann was the wife of J. W. Ellerbrock and died at Glandorf in 1912. After Mr. Utendorf died she and

Mr. Kleman married and spent the rest of their lives on the farm which she owned. Here she died in 1882, her husband dying in 1859, leaving her with a family of children. She had seven by her second marriage, of whom three died before her husband. She and her children remained on the farm as long as she lived.

John H. Kleman was married to Mary Hueve in 1873. She was born northwest of Glandorf, the daughter of Joseph and Lisette (Clafor) Hueve. Her father was born in Prussia and came to America about 1840, at the age of sixteen, with his parents, Herman and Elizabeth Hueve. They located northwest of Glandorf when the country was still new.

Lisette Clafor was born in Hanover, Germany, and at the age of three was brought to America with her parents, who located southwest of Ottawa. Joseph Hueve and wife located in section 3 of Pleasant township, when Mrs. Kleman was about three years old. They located in the midst of the woods, as did the other pioneers and there spent the rest of their lives. Mrs. Hueve died in 1893 and her husband in May, 1899. They had a large family, of whom three died in infancy and three grew to maturity.

After John H. Kleman married, he continued farming where he now lives. He has served twice as land appraiser, in 1900, and again in 1910, and was trustee of Ottawa township from 1882 to 1887. Mr. Kleman has added to his original land holdings, as he was able, and now owns three hundred and ten acres. He has rebuilt his barns and houses and is a well-known and influential citizen.

John H. and Mary (Hueve) Kleman are the parents of ten children, Anna M., Joseph, Elizabeth M., Frank J., Veronica K., John, Lewis H., Carolina C., Albert L. and Adolph H. Anna M. was born on October 5, 1874, married Frank Smith. They live near Bryant, Indiana, and have seven children. Joseph G., March 8, 1876, married Lizzie Meyer. They live three miles northeast of Miller City and have four children; Elizabeth M., April 2, 1879, married John Liebrecht, and lives two miles south of Kalida. They have four children; Frank J., May 30, 1881, married November 17, 1914, to Anna Shekelhoff. They live one mile south of his father's farm; Veronica K., August 5, 1882, married to Joseph Reitz. They live at Oberlin, Ohio, have four children living; John, February 27, 1885, is still single, living at Toledo, Ohio; Lewis H., July 23, 1887, was married June 10, 1914, to Elizabeth Kreinbrink. They live just across the road from his father; Caroline C., January 2, 1890; Albert L., February 14, 1892; and Adolph H., November 13, 1895, all still resides at home.

John W. Kleman and family are devoted members of the Catholic

church at Glandorf. He also belongs to the Holy Name society and the St. Joseph society. Mr. Kleman is broad-minded, hospitable, sociable and patriotic, a worthy son of Andrew Kleman, who was a king's guard in the old country and, in 1842, upon coming to America, was appointed captain of the home guards of Ohio and was always known as Captain Kleman.

WILLIAM SCHLAGBAUM.

There are many enterprises which bring almost immediate success, but few of such successes are lasting. It is not so with the farming enterprise, however. Prosperity comes, if it comes at all, after long years of labor, and after an almost desperate struggle against the elements and unforeseen backsets. The German farmers have taken hold of these difficulties with great zeal, and many of them are now the leading agriculturists of Putnam county, Ohio. The Schlagbaum family have always been highly respected in Putnam county. William Schlagbaum, especially, has been a successful farmer, and he is a man who, because of his enterprising habits, and his worthy ideals, is entitled to representation in a volume which undertakes to set forth the biographical history of Putnam county's representative citizens.

William Schlagbaum was born on July 17, 1863, in Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of George and Dorothy (Hille) Schlagbaum. George Schlagbaum was born in Prussia, and came to the United States when he was about twenty years old. He lived in Cincinnati for six years and was married in that city. His wife was a native of Germany, who came to the United States when about fifteen years old. George Schlagbaum and wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom lived to maturity, and four are now living: Barney, a resident of Monterey township in this county; Lucy, the wife of Frank W. Helmkamp, whose life story is told elsewhere in this volume; Mary, the wife of Fred Vincke, of Ottoville, Ohio; Anna, deceased, was the wife Nicholas Bedink, of Ottoville; William, with whom this narrative deals.

George and Dorothy (Hille) Schlagbaum moved to Putnam county, about 1855, and settled on the farm one-half mile east of Ottoville. The country was covered with timber in those days and when they came to Putnam county, they came by boat through the canal, and from it moved their furniture to the spot where they built their home in the wilderness. The furniture was hauled in a wheelbarrow. The land was cleared and carefully



WILLIAM SCHLAGBAUM.



farmed by Mr. Schlagbaum. He passed away in 1886, and his widow died in 1895.

William Schlagbaum received a common-school education. He operated his father's farm from 1884 until 1895. He was married on May 21, 1895, to Lucy Kehres, a daughter of August and Lucy (Marks) Kehres, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States with their parents when small children. August and Lucy (Marks) Kehres were the parents of five children, two of whom died in infancy, while three are still living, Henry, of Delphos, Ohio, where he is filling the office of chief of police of that city; Lucy, the wife of Mr. Schlagbaum, and Anna, the wife of Gerhard Utrup, lives in Monterey township. Mrs. Lucy Kehres died in 1889, and her husband, subsequently, married Anna Dunst, and to this second marriage four children were born: Cillia, the wife of Matthias Vondran, of Oklahoma; Lewis died at the age of twenty-one; Frances, the wife of Roy Rueb, of Oklahoma, and Walter, also living in Oklahoma. August Kehres and his second wife now live in Oklahoma.

To William and Anna (Dunst) Schlagbaum, nine children have been born. Two died in infancy and seven are still living, Alberta is attending school and will graduate in the spring of 1915; Ida, Alphonse, Martha, Walter, Agnes and George, all of whom are either at home or attending school, are the remaining children.

William Schlagbaum owns the old homestead farm of one hundred and twenty-four acres. It lies east of Ottoville, and adjoins the corporation line. Mr. Schlagbaum is a farmer and makes a specialty of high-grade stock. He has as good a farm as can be found in Putnam county. The farm is well-drained and well-improved in every respect. He has a modern house and barn. Mr. Schlagbaum has added all of these improvements himself.

William Schlagbaum is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He and his wife are devout members of the Catholic church at Ottoville. Mr. Schlagbaum is a Democrat. He was elected a member of the board of county commissioners in 1914 and is now discharging the duties of this office in a manner which reflects credit upon the people who elected him and upon Mr. Schlagbaum himself. Previously, he served his township as trustee for two terms. He is a member of the school board and is serving his third term. Mr. Schlagbaum before this served as a member of the Putnam county fair board for two terms and resigned just after having been elected a member of the board of county commissioners. Some years ago he was a director in the bank at Ottoville, but is no longer

active in banking affairs. William Schlagbaum is a representative farmer and a highly respected citizen of Putnam county. He is a man possessed of an exceptionally keen mind and is genial in his manner, well liked by his neighbors and possessed of the confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

HOMER WILLIAM PIERMAN.

Born of good old Virginia stock at a time when the conditions of living in Putnam county were far from being as pleasant as they are now, and growing up to vigorous manhood under the careful teachings of parents who had been inured to the privations and hardships of pioneer life, H. W. Pierman, one of the best known farmers in Putnam county, Ohio, reasonably may look back over his life of painstaking effort with no small degree of complacency and with a feeling that things have, after all, turned out very pleasantly for him.

Homer William Pierman was born on March 31, 1873, in the house in which he now lives, on the farm his parents wrested from the wilderness and where he has lived all his life. He is the son of Samuel and Margaret (Clark) Pierman, who were among the most highly regarded pioneer residents of Putnam county, the former of whom was a native of Virginia and the latter a native of Putnam county, her birth having occurred in Ottawa township, October 22, 1837, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Battlefield) Clark, who came to Putnam county in 1833, and who lived just east of where the county fair grounds are now located.

Samuel Pierman, further mention of whose life in this county is contained in the biographical sketch of Charles O. Pierman, found elsewhere in this volume, was, in his day, one of the most influential men in the county. He was born in Virginia, on June 24, 1827, the son of James and Polly (Agner) Pierman, who at that time lived about ten miles from the natural bridge of Virginia, one of America's most notable natural wonders, a scenic marvel which annually attracts thousands of visitors. James Pierman was a soldier in the War of 1812, a member of one of the old families of Virginia and a man of remarkable vigor and courage, of the true pioneer breed. When Samuel Pierman was quite a small boy, his parents moved from Virginia to Putnam county, Ohio, settling about three miles from Ottawa, just west of the mouth of Riley creek. They lived at that point for about ten years, at the end of which time they moved into the northwestern part of

Pleasant township, where they spent the remainder of their lives and where they did very much toward the development along all lines of the new community. They brought to the wilderness practical knowledge and experience which their widely-scattered neighbors soon learned to rely on, and it is undoubted that their influence in that community did very much toward bringing about proper conditions of social and economic life in the formative period of the now prosperous and established farming region. James Pierman and the woman who was ever at his side, a true pioneer helpmeet, long have lain in the neighborhood burying-ground, resting well after the stern labors which their hands found to do, and the fourth generation of their descendants in that community finds conditions immeasurably easier for their having striven—"blazing the ways."

Samuel Pierman grew up amid the hardships of a pioneer life and, when the gold fever broke out in 1849, decided to join the throng of new Argonauts in the stampede to California. Going by rail as far as St. Joseph, Missouri, which was the terminus of western railway travel in that day, he walked the rest of the way across the continent. Conditions in California not being what he had expected he gave up the quest for gold, after about three years of prospecting, and returned to Putnam county. Though he did not "strike it rich" in the gold field, he did not come back entirely empty-handed, and upon his return was able to purchase a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Ottawa township. To this he gradually made additions, as his "clearings" grew, until at the time of his death he was the owner of three hundred and thirty-six acres of fine land in the county. He was an active influence for good in his neighborhood and he and his wife were ever leaders in the good works of community, being regarded with the highest respect by all who knew them. His death occurred on January 7, 1904, his wife having preceded him to the grave on March 12, 1883. Mrs. Pierman had been twice married, she having been the Widow Merritt when Mr. Pierman married her on June 26, 1860. To Samuel and Margaret (Clark) Pierman nine children were born, all of whom survived their parents.

Homer William Pierman, son of the above, was united in marriage on April 4, 1901, to Miss Nora Agner, who was born on May 26, 1881, on her father's farm in Ottawa township, not far from where she now lives, the daughter of James M. and Sarah (Crow) Agner, prominent residents of that community. To this union five children have been born, Gladys, on January 4, 1902; Glenn, July 13, 1903; Marcine, January 15, 1908; Corwin, December 25, 1912, and Idona-Dorine, April 23, 1915, a lively set of youngsters who are the continual delight of their devoted parents.

Since his marriage, H. W. Pierman has managed the old home farm, which he is constantly improving and which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. This part of the old home farm consists of one hundred and forty-five acres and includes the homestead where H. W. was born, a good brick house, a fine bank barn and other improvements in accord with the surroundings.

H. W. Pierman is a Democrat and though taking an intelligent interest in local politics, the part of all good citizens, has not included himself among the active campaigners or put himself in the office-seeking class, preferring to give such time as he has to the development of his extensive farming interests. H. W. Pierman and wife are members of the Riley Creek Methodist Protestant church and are active participants in the various good works of that organization as well as giving their personal interest to all movements having as their object the advancement of the commonwealth. Good, substantial citizens, they are very properly regarded as among the leading families of that part of the county.

FRED MICHEL, JR.

The whole world over, men are striving for homes and the substantial comforts of life. The greater their desire for home and the comforts which go with the home, the greater their zeal, and the more persistent their labor. The pioneers of this country who have been successful in acquiring homes and the comforts surrounding the homes, have richly deserved the blessing. It is with pride that the biographer of Putnam county, Ohio, can point to the careers of Fred Michel, Jr., and wife, who have struggled, side by side, and who are now enjoying the fruits of their early labors.

Fred Michel, Jr., was born southeast of Ottawa, July 15, 1844. He is a son of Fred Michel, Sr., and Ursula (Betts) Michel, both of whom are natives of Bairn Menhoff, Germany. Fred Michel, Sr., came to the United States when a young man, arriving near Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1840. He engaged in farming and here married Ursula Betts.

When Fred Michel, Jr., was ten years of age, his parents purchased forty acres of land near the north line of Pleasant township, south of Glandorf. This land was heavily wooded at the time. The father died when Fred, Jr., was twelve years old, leaving four sons, Fred, Anton, Theodore and John. The widow and sons remained on the farm until the boys had reached maturity. The other three sons settling in Glandorf.

Fred Michel, Jr., was married on January 26, 1872, to Mary Neuvevan. Mary Neuvevan was born in Glandorf, Germany, in 1847, and is a daughter of Frederick and Katherine (Hoffman) Neuvevan. She grew up in her native land, remaining there until 1871, when, with two other sisters and one brother, they came to the United States, locating at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. Her father died in 1873, and, about 1877 her mother and two other sisters and a brother, August, also came to this county, and located at Glandorf, leaving only one child in Germany. After coming here, the mother married Joseph Becker, an expert shoemaker of Glandorf. Mr. Becker died at Glandorf, and Mrs. Michel's mother spent the last three years of her life with her son, August, who lives north of New Cleveland. Her death occurred in 1892.

After Mr. Michel's marriage, he farmed in Pleasant township, and lived there until April 1, 1889, when he and his wife moved to the farm they now occupy southeast of Ottawa, in section 36. They began with forty acres of rough land, which was uncleared and naturally not very fertile. Fred Michel and wife both worked with intense zeal to pay for their little home. They worked at night clearing away the brush and burning it. The land was wet and swampy and people told them that they would starve to death, but the young couple replied that they would take care of that, and, despite discouragements, they worked with a will, Mrs. Michel helping her husband loyally. They not only did not starve, but they prospered, and, finally, came to own two hundred acres of land. They have sold eighty acres of this to a son, and have one hundred and twenty acres remaining.

Fred and Mary (Neuvevan) Michel, Jr., are the parents of eight children, five sons and three daughters, Mary, the wife of Frank Ricker, of Anaheim, California, has eight children; Caroline, the wife of Barney Ricker, living on the Kalida pike, in Union township, and they have ten children, Charles, farming eighty acres which he purchased from his parents, married Anna Heuerman, and they have three children; John, of Dayton, married Cora Lenhart, and they have one daughter, Marguerite; Agnes, the wife of Harry Noland, of Cincinnati, has five children; Joseph, living at home; August, married Selina Berger and lives in California; Louis, also a resident of Anaheim, California.

Fred Michel and wife, and all their large family are devout members of the Catholic church, and contribute liberally to the support of that church. Mr. Michel is a man of friendly, kindly disposition, and Mrs. Michel is not less so, being affable and agreeable and today is proud of the hard struggle she and her husband had to acquire the splendid competence which they now

enjoy. Not long ago they took a trip to California, to visit their children there, and enjoyed the trip immensely. They are substantial citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, and well deserve the high esteem in which they are held.

JOHN KOHLS, JR.

There is no positive rule for achieving success and yet, in the life of a successful man, there are always lessons which might well be followed. The man who wins success is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that come in his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differing but slightly. When one man passes another on the highway of life to reach his goal before others who perhaps started out before him, it is because he has the power to use the advantages which probably fall within purview of the whole human race. Today among the prominent citizens and successful farmers of Putnam county is John Kohls, Jr., of Ottawa township. The qualities of keen discrimination, sound judgment and executive ability enter very largely into his makeup and have been contributing elements to the material success which has come to him.

John Kohls, Jr., was born on December 21, 1862, on the farm where he now lives, southeast of Ottawa, on the Pandora road. He is the son of John, Sr., and Margaret (Hessling) Kohls. John Kohls, Sr., was born on August 29, 1832, in Pittsburgh and was the son of Henry Kohls. Henry Kohls was born in the town of Oldenburg in the grand duchy of the same name in Germany, in 1791, and spent his boyhood days on a farm. He married Sophia Kottonbrock in 1824, who was born in the same village in 1795. They came to America in 1832 and spent one year at Pittsburgh and one year in Cincinnati. In the fall of 1835 they came to Glandorf and purchased a tract of uncleared land and hopefully set to work to clear their farm. Here they established their home and reared a family of seven children. Henry Kohls prospered and accumulated considerable property. He had begun with nothing, but at the time of his death, in 1876, he left a considerable estate to his children. His wife survived him six years. Both were members of the Glandorf Catholic church.

John Kohls, Sr., came to this country with his parents when a child and grew up at the south edge of Glandorf, where the depot is now situated. He lived here until married. He was married to Margaret Hessling, who was

born in Glandorf, Putnam county, and was the daughter of Henry Hessling and his first wife. After John Kohls, Sr., married he moved to a farm southeast of Ottawa along the south side of the Blanchard river. The farm comprised fifty-seven and one-half acres and this he bought from his father, Henry Kohls. Several years later he bought forty-eight acres from a Mr. Hollister and then purchased the Homer Sackett farm of eighty acres, along the south side of the township line. Next he bought the Krieger farm of forty-five acres, and, later, bought one hundred and three acres in the southwest corner of Liberty township. He lived on this farm, where he first settled, until his death, at the age of about seventy-nine years. There were five children in his family, four boys and one girl, Henry, John, Jr., Bernard A., William, deceased, and Catherine. As they grew up and married, he gave each son a farm and his daughter the equivalent in money. John Kohls, Sr., was engaged in the live stock business for many years. He was in partnership with several different men, first with his brother, William, and later, he did purchasing for Jordan, McDowell and others and did a big business. He died on September 1, 1911, the second day after his seventy-ninth birthday. His wife died on January 20, 1868, at the age of thirty-two, when John Kohls, Jr., was only five years old.

John Kohls, Jr., grew up on the farm southeast of Ottawa and here performed the usual tasks which fell to the lot of the country boy. On November 16, 1887, Mr. Kohls was married to Maria Rose Hohenbrink. She is the daughter of Matthias and Theresa (Huester) Hohenbrink.

Matthias Hohenbrink was born in Hanover, Germany, July 25, 1817. He lived in Germany until twenty-two years of age and then came to America and lived in Cincinnati about two months, when he came to Glandorf, Putnam county, where he worked out by the month. He worked on the canal, beginning at Delphos, working in both directions. In this way he made the money with which to buy eighty acres, about one and one-half miles northeast of Glandorf, where his family now lives. This farm was purchased before 1850, and was all a wild woods at the time, none of it having been cleared. He built a little cabin, ten by twelve feet, with a chimney of sticks and mud and had no regular windows. It was so dark that he had to open the door to get enough light. Here he "bached" for one year, when he married Katherine Halker, an aunt of J. W. Halker and a sister of William Halker, Sr. After they married, she died in a few years, leaving four children, Katherine, the wife of Conrad Wyant, and who lived near New Cleveland until her death; Mary, the wife of Ed Maag, of Pleasant township; Theresa, deceased, who was the wife of John Beckman, and John W., who lives at the west edge of Liberty township near Miller City.

In 1861, Mr. Hohenbrink married Theresa Huster. She was born in Greensburg township in 1840, and is the daughter of Henry and Katherina Elizabeth (Gaetker) Huster. Henry Huster came from Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, and was an early settler in Greensburg township, having come in 1836. He was married in Glandorf, Germany, to Elizabeth Gaetker and lived in Greensburg township until 1864, when he moved to Shelby county, Ohio, and died there in 1867. His wife died in 1854. After Matthias Hohenbrink married, he spent the remainder of his life on the farm where he first started north of Glandorf. He bought more land and owned over two hundred acres in Ottawa township and more in Liberty township. This land is still in possession of the family. Seven children were born to the second marriage, Anna, who is the wife of David Bockrath, of Greensburg township, and has five children; Henry, who lives on the home place with his mother; Mary Rosa, the wife of John Kohls, Jr.; William, who died at the age of five years; Helena, who is at home with her mother; Fred J., who married Theresa Morman, lives in the northwestern part of Ottawa township and has five children; Matt B., who lives at home and operates the farm. The family are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Hohenbrink died on July 9, 1892. He did not seek office but, nevertheless, served as school director. His main interest, however, was his farming. He was a good farmer and a self-made man, who came to a new country with nothing but his strength, character and energy. He became well known and respected by all the people of this vicinity.

Theresa Huester was the second wife of Matthias Hohenbrink. She was born in Greensburg township and lived there until her marriage. She now lives northeast of Glandorf. Mrs. Kohls was born on her father's farm near Glandorf and lived there until her marriage.

After John Kohls, Jr., was married, he lived one year and three months in section 35, and then moved back with his father and lived there until 1905, when he moved to Ottawa. He went into the hardware business with M. O. Agner and was there until Christmas, 1907, when he sold out and moved back to the home farm, where he built a new house. He suffered quite a loss from the great flood of 1913 and had thirty inches of water in his house. The following fall he moved the house to the south side of the road, where he now lives. Some time before this, he had built a barn and other outbuildings. Mr. Kohls, Jr., now owns one hundred and forty-two acres of land. He lost much in the flood and was also hard hit by the hog cholera, but having good staying qualities, he pulled through and did well where others would have given up.

John and Maria Rose (Hohenbrink) Kohls have one son and two daughters, Margherata, Albert and Adelina. Margherata is the wife of Lambert A. Studer and lives at Townsend, Montana. She has one son, John Kohls; Albert and Adelina are at home. Margherata's husband, Mr. Studer, has a fine hardware store and farm in Montana. John Kohls and wife took a trip to Yellowstone Park and through the West in 1914, and enjoyed the trip immensely. All of the Kohls family are members of the Catholic church and liberal contributors to its support. Few people are better known in this vicinity than John Kohls, Jr., and few are more deserving of the respect and confidence bestowed upon them by their neighbors and fellow citizens than he.

BENJAMIN F. SCHAFER.

The biographies of representative men of a county, either of a past or present generation, brings alike many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their descendants and of the community. It is a source of regret that people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men in the ranks of whom may be found farmers, mechanics, teachers, lawyers, physicians, bankers and members of other professions. Putnam county, Ohio, has been the scene of labor of many men who have not only led lives which should serve as a lesson and inspiration to those who follow them on the stage of life's activities, but who have also been of commendable service in other important avenues. Benjamin F. Schafer, the subject of this sketch, is a well-known and successful young farmer and stock buyer of Putnam county, Ohio.

Benjamin F. Schafer was born on August 11, 1882, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Mary (Morris) Schafer.

William Schafer was born in Koenig, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, on February 4, 1839, and came to America with his parents in 1854. They settled in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, where he was married to Mary Morris, the daughter of Judge Morris, August 6, 1863. With his young wife, he moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, in March, 1864, and settled on the farm on which he and his wife resided until their deaths. At the time he moved to Palmer township, it was almost an unbroken forest and abounded with all kinds of game and wild animals. He cleared the timber from most of the farm with his own hands. He was quite active in politics, being a Democrat. He held several offices of trust and, in April,

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1867, was elected justice of the peace of Palmer township, which office he held for twelve consecutive terms, or until his death. He was twice elected township treasurer and once township trustee. He was elected county commissioner, in 1875, and held this office for six years. William Schafer was appointed postmaster at North Creek, Ohio, in March, 1879, and held this office until President McKinley was elected.

To William and Mary (Morris) Schafer were born twelve children, Henry P., on September 11, 1864; John S., February 18, 1866; Margaret Catherine, September 19, 1867; William W., December 17, 1869; George Lewis, December 12, 1871; Charles C., September 26, 1874; Sarah E., August 22, 1876; Mary Emaline, June 17, 1878; Ida Lavina, August 19, 1880; Benjamin F., August 11, 1882; Surilda Laura May, July 13, 1884, died on September 1, 1903, and Joseph J., May 19, 1887. Five of the sons and one daughter reside in Putnam county and the others reside in different states. William Schafer died on January 1, 1903, and his wife died on October 10, 1902.

Benjamin F. Schafer grew up on the homestead farm and was educated in district No. 3, of Palmer township. He has never left the original homestead farm owned by his father.

Benjamin F. Schafer was married on September 8, 1903, to Mary Ida Brecht, the daughter of Amos and Mary (Fenstermaker) Brecht.

Amos Brecht was born on November 20, 1849, in Seneca county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county with his parents who settled in Palmer township on a farm. His parents were Adam and Elizabeth Brecht, the latter of whom was a native of Seneca county, Ohio, and the former of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. He came to America with his parents when he was four years of age and they settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where they were farmers. Here, Amos Brecht grew up and was educated and he, with his parents, came to Putnam county in 1862 and settled on eighty acres of land in Liberty township, where Amos farmed until his marriage, in August, 1871, to Mary Fenstermaker, who was the daughter of Gideon and Anna Elizabeth (Roat) Fenstermaker. Gideon Fenstermaker was born in Pennsylvania on August 22, 1825. He moved with his parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, when he was quite young and remained on the homestead farm until his marriage, August 17, 1851. He was reared a farmer and educated in Fairfield county. His parents both died in this county. After his marriage, Gideon Fenstermaker moved to Putnam county, Ohio, settling on one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Palmer township. This he cleared and improved. When he received the land, it was heavily timbered,

and the bark of the wolves could be plainly heard at night. By rigid economy and persistent effort, he made out of this a good farm. He sold part of the farm, later, but kept forty acres, which he farmed until his death, June 22, 1894, at the age of sixty-eight years and ten months. He was a staunch Democrat and served as justice of the peace and township trustee for many years. He also held other minor offices. He was a member of the Disciples church. His wife, Elizabeth Roat, was born in Washington county, Maryland, March 10, 1834, and died March 5, 1907, at the age of seventy-two years, eleven months and twenty-six days. She came with her parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, at the age of four years. Here she grew to womanhood and was educated. She was a good woman and an active member of the Disciples church. Gideon and Anna Elizabeth Fenstermaker had ten children, Mrs. Mary Gustwiler, of Palmer township, Putnam county, who who first married Mr. Brecht; Edward, of Henry county; Martin, of Bellmore, Ohio; Mrs. Seluta Stall, of Hancock county, Ohio; Charles, of Lima; Caroline, who died at the age of ten years; John, of Dekalb county, Ohio; Mrs. Dallas Robinson, of Union county, Ohio; Mrs. Cora Harmon, of Blanchard township; and Ora, of Hillsdale, Michigan.

Amos Brecht, the father of Mrs. Schafer, remained on his father's farm in Liberty township, Putnam county, for two years after his marriage and then purchased twenty acres in Palmer township, which he subsequently increased to one hundred and twenty acres by adding small tracts. He improved the farm and built a fine residence. He was an excellent farmer and an industrious worker, paying close attention to the details of farm management. He was a well-to-do man, well known and well liked. He was a staunch Democrat, although he never cared for office. He did, however, hold minor township offices, such as township supervisor and school director. He was an active and devout member of St. John's Lutheran church. He was a companionable man, a good father and a good provider. He had a family of nine children, Mrs. Laura E. Miller, of Dekalb county, Indiana; Gideon, of Palmer township, Putnam county; Israel, of Liberty township; Amos, deceased; Mrs. Selvita Eveline Farney, of Blanchard township; Mary Ida, the wife of Mr. Schafer; Daniel LeRoy, of Palmer township; Mrs. Anna Levina Dolmeyer, of Palmer township, and John Dietrich, who is at home.

After the death of Amos Brecht, his wife was married on July 25, 1895, to Louis Gustwiler, a native of Detroit, Michigan. They were married on the homestead farm of Amos Brecht.

Benjamin F. and Mary Ida (Brecht) Schafer have had four children, Floyd Ray, born on July 24, 1904; Ernest Franklin, July 14, 1906; Nolan

Henry, in November, 1908, and Edith Frada, June 9, 1911. All of these children are at home. The three sons attend the same district No. 3 school, which their father attended during his youth.

Benjamin F. Schafer has erected practically all of the buildings on his farm of one hundred and seventy-three acres. He follows general farming and raises considerable stock, especially cattle. He is an extensive stock-buyer and feeds cattle. At the present time he has ten head of horses. He owns a registered Shorthorn bull. He is in a company of four persons who own two Belgian stallions, which he keeps on his farm. He sells an average of fifty head of cattle each year. Some time ago Mr. Schafer rebuilt one of the largest barns in Putnam county. It is known as one of the finest in the county.

Benjamin F. Schafer is not a member of any lodge. He is a Democrat in politics and is very active in the councils of his party. He has never cared much for office, although he has served as school director. He is especially a lover of horses and all live stock, of which he is an expert judge. Mr. Schafer is not a member of any church, but was reared in the Old School Baptist faith. Mrs. Schafer is a member of the Reformed Lutheran church, at Miller City, Ohio. Benjamin Schafer is a congenial man, quiet and unassuming, well liked and well acquainted throughout Putnam county. He comes of excellent pioneer stock and is himself a worthy scion of a noble family.

CHARLES O. PIERMAN.

Among the progressive farmers, of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Charles O. Pierman, a man who owns a splendid farm, has a delightful home and is prudent and wise in the administration of his affairs.

Charles O. Pierman was born on February 25, 1871, in the southeastern part of Ottawa township. He is the son of Samuel and Margaret F. (Clark) Pierman.

Samuel Pierman died on January 7, 1904, at the age of seventy-six and his wife died on March 12, 1883. During his life, Samuel Pierman was one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Putnam county. He was born in Virginia about ten miles from the natural bridge, June 24, 1827, and when young moved with his parents to Ohio in 1834. He was a son of James and Polly (Agner) Pierman. They settled about three miles east of Ottawa, just west of the mouth of Riley creek. About ten years later they moved into

the northeastern part of Pleasant township and lived there the rest of their lives. Samuel Pierman grew up amid the hardships of pioneer life. His father was a soldier in the War of 1812 and was a fearless man. Samuel remembered when, in his boyhood, the Indians got drunk and noisy and were led out of his father's cabin by the hair. Samuel was among the "forty-niners," going by rail to St. Joseph, Missouri, and from there walked across the continent to California. Three years later he came back home and bought one hundred and sixty acres in the southwest quarter of section 26, of Ottawa township. Later, he sold eighty acres and bought more land near the Blanchard river where it was cleared and the water did not stand so much as on the other land. He became owner of three hundred and thirty-six acres.

Samuel Pierman was married on June 26, 1860, to Mrs. Margaret A. (Clark) Merritt. She was born in Ottawa township, just east of the fair grounds on October 22, 1837, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Battlefield) Clark, who came to Putnam county, in 1833. Samuel and Margaret (Merritt) Pierman were the parents of nine children, all of whom survived him. When a good man, industrious and honest, dies, the community mourns. They miss his companionship and presence and pay worthy tribute to his memory. Samuel Pierman was a man highly respected and esteemed by a large circle of intimate friends.

Charles O. Pierman grew up on his father's farm. He was married on October 25, 1894, to Harriett Gertrude McDowell. She was born in Blanchard township and is the daughter of William and Eliza (Ridge) McDowell. William McDowell was an old and respected citizen of Putnam county, born in Hancock county, Ohio, and died in Ottawa, March 26, 1898, at the age of forty-nine. When very young, he came with his parents, John and Nancy (Mallahan) McDowell, to Putnam county. They located in Riley township, and here he lived until 1896. He married Eliza Ridge in 1871. She was born, in Riley township, the daughter of William and Harriett (Catlett) Ridge, whose family came from Virginia. Mrs. Ridge is still living in Ottawa, at the age of eighty-eight. William McDowell farmed in Riley township, until 1896, and then moved to Ottawa, where he operated the City hotel until his death. He was well known throughout the eastern part of the county and had a very large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Ever since his marriage, Mr. Pierman and his wife have lived in the community where he was born. He has a farm of one hundred and ten acres, splendid house and barn and is in every way a progressive citizen. Charles O. and Harriett G. (McDowell) Pierman have been the parents of seven

children, Mildred A., born on June 19, 1898; Charles La Monte, June 28, 1901; Raymond, April 26, 1904; Lloyd V., November 29, 1906; Zoe Edna, April 7, 1909; Dorothy Ruth, November 8, 1911; and Helen Grace, December 3, 1913.

Identified with the Democratic party, Mr. Pierman is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In every respect he must be classed as a representative citizen of Ottawa township, where he has lived for so many years.

JAMES M. AGNER.

In these latter days it is interesting to record the lives of men who settled a new country while the Indians were still roaming about. The progress of agriculture since those days has been most remarkable. The present-day farmer is no longer beset with the problems which faced the hardy pioneers of other days, but is now enabled because of improved methods to divide his time between his own vocation and public affairs, generally. Improved devices have placed the farmer in the front of our progressive citizens. One of the most progressive citizens of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, and especially one of the most progressive farmers of this township, is James M. Agner.

James M. Agner was born on January 27, 1855, about two miles southeast of Ottawa along the Blanchard river. He was the son of George and Elizabeth (Sackett) Agner. George Agner was the son of George and Rachel (Mockerman) Agner and was born in Fairfield county, in 1818, and came with his parents to Putnam county in 1843. He married Elizabeth Sackett on October 21, 1847. Her parents were William and Rachel (Lile) Sackett, who came from Fairfield county and settled in Ottawa township in 1833. George Agner died September 2, 1878. His father entered the land on which was the site of the old Indian town of Upper Tawa and their burying ground was on his farm. Their graves being shallow, he gathered the bones and buried them, which act highly incensed the remaining Indians and they threatened his life. He left with his family for a time and when the Indians had removed he returned to his farm.

George Agner, Jr., was a child when his father came to Ottawa township and the boy found playmates with the Indian children in this vicinity. George Agner, Sr., and his wife, were Pennsylvania-Dutch and came from

Maryland to Ohio. James M. Agner's mother died on February 16, 1894. James M. Agner grew up on the farm on which he was born.

James M. Agner was married in 1879, to Sarah E. Crow. She was born five miles west of Ottawa and was a daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth (Fretz) Crow. Stephen Crow was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on March 18, 1826, and came to Putnam county, in 1835, with his parents, James and Elizabeth (Moreland) Crow. He was married, in this county, October 28, 1847, to Elizabeth Fretz, who was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, July 16, 1828, the daughter of John and Veronica (Shelby) Fretz, who settled in Putnam county in 1834.

Sarah E. Crow was eighteen years old when her parents moved to Riley township, Putnam county, and there she lived until her marriage to Mr. Agner. After this he continued farming on the land entered by his grandfather. He owns one hundred and twenty acres at home, and eighty acres in Palmer township. Mr. Agner follows general farming and raises a good breed of live stock, and now owns a farm of one hundred and twenty acres.

To James M. and Sarah E. (Crow) Agner five sons and two daughters have been born, Pratt E., Nora, Neva May, Jason, Raymond, Clyde and Clair. Pratt E. married May Allen and engaged in farming near the old home. They have two daughters, Mildred and Delilah Louise, and a son Richard, who died at the age of nineteen months; Nora is the wife of Homer Pierman and lives near the old home. They have five children, Gladys May, James Glenn, Marcene Lenore, William Corwin and Idonna-Dorine; Neva May is still at home; Jason married Lucy Post and lives at Ottawa; Raymond married Edna Fensler, lives in Toledo and has one daughter, Ruby; Clyde and Clair are twins; Clyde married Marie Conine and lives northeast of Gilboa in Blanchard township; Clair is still at home.

Mrs. James M. Agner died on Christmas day, 1898. She was a faithful and devoted wife and mother, rearing her children to be Christian men and women. She united with the Disciples church at the age of fourteen and remained faithful to this church all of her life. The last Great Call found her fully prepared for the everlasting life where no loving ties are severed.

James M. Agner is identified with the Democratic party. He has served on the school board or as school director for about fifteen years. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Agner is a public-spirited citizen, well known for his sterling integrity, his uprightness of character and is popular in the community where he lives.

CELESTIAN NOIROT, JR.

Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, has many excellent farmers and many excellent citizens, among whom is Celestian Noirot, Jr., who owns a splendid farm in section 13, in this township. Mr. Noirot is a native of the township where he now lives. Here he has spent all of his life. He is widely acquainted in this section of Putnam county and is recognized as a citizen of high standing and intelligence in the community where he lives. Mr. Noirot has had much to do with the agricultural progress and prosperity of Putnam county, and, from any standpoint, is entitled to representation in a volume of this character.

Celestian Noirot, Jr., was born on December 23, 1869, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Celestian, Sr., and Victoria Noirot.

Celestian Noirot, Sr., was born in the village of Boncourt, France, on August 10, 1835. He came to America with his parents, Francis and Francois (Raslot) Noirot, who were also natives of the village of Boncourt, France, and who settled in Hancock county on a farm. They lived here for a time and later moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1862, settling on forty acres in Palmer township, where the land was heavily timbered and in a swampy condition. Celestian Noirot, Sr., was a farmer. He accompanied his parents to Putnam county and farmed in a general way all of his life. He also learned the plasterer's trade in Hancock county and followed this, together with farming. He followed this trade in Putnam county and many buildings were plastered by him. The forty acres in Palmer township were, in time, increased to over two hundred. Celestian Noirot, Sr., followed his trade in Findlay, Ohio, walking back and forth to his farm in Palmer township. He was married in Findlay, Ohio, and after his marriage returned to Putnam county. He and his wife have been the parents of nine children: Joseph, deceased; Celestian, deceased; Mrs. Helen Kerns, of Miller City; Victoria, deceased; Celestian, Jr., the subject of this sketch; George, who lives in Canada; Mrs. Emma Royal, of Dekalb county, Indiana, and Theodore, of Miller City. Celestian Noirot, Sr., served as supervisor and school director, and, with these two exceptions, has held no offices. He is a Democrat and is a member of the St. Nicholas church at Miller City. He lives with his son, Celestian, Jr., on the farm, but is retired. He is a man of good reputation and has done much for his children. He has been a hard worker and has seen many joys and sorrows. He is now past eighty years of age. The



MR. AND MRS. CELESTIAN NOIROT.

mother of Celestian Noirot, Jr., was born in Alsace, France, and came to America with her mother. Her mother became seasick on the vessel during the rough voyage and died five days after landing in this country. Mrs. Noirot then came to Findlay, Ohio, with her brother George and others. She remained there for some time, and after her marriage came to Putnam county with her husband. She was born on August 15, 1841, and died on August 17, 1907, at the age of seventy-four years and two days. She was a devout member of the St. Nicholas church at Miller City.

Celestian Noirot, Jr., was reared a farmer and grew up on his father's farm in Palmer township. He was educated in the district schools of the township. Mr. Noirot was married on January 29, 1896, to Elizabeth Jones, the daughter of Joseph and Malinda (Lanning) Jones. Mrs. Noirot's father was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, and grew up on the farm there with his parents. He was educated and married in that county. After his marriage he went from Guernsey county to Illinois, where he remained for eight years on a farm. He then returned to Guernsey county and built a saw-mill, which business he followed for about two years. He then came to Putnam county and settled where Continental, Ohio, now stands. This land was heavily timbered and swampy at the time. Here he built a saw-mill, and, having brought the mill material with him from Guernsey county, began operating it. Mrs. Noirot was then ten years of age. Mr. Jones followed the saw-mill business here for some time and then in different parts of the state, wherever the timber was thick. He moved to Knockatee, Florida, in 1911, where he is engaged in the saw-filing business. He is an expert at this trade. He also owns two orange groves in Florida. He married Malinda Lanning in Guernsey county. She is still living. She was born in Guernsey county, September 10, 1856. She grew up in this county and was educated there.

To Joseph and Malinda Jones the following children were born: John, who lives in Palmer township; Elizabeth, subject's wife; Mrs. Emma Horning, of New Bavaria; Charles, who lives in Alabama; Jesse, of Salesville, Mississippi; Howard, of Holmesville, Ohio; Edna, of Coshocton, Ohio; Mrs. Blanche McKelrey, of Oriville, Ohio; Ida and Clyde, twins, the former of Palmer township and the latter of Knockatee, Florida; Hazel and Walter, both of Knockatee, Florida.

Celestian Noirot, Jr., grew up on the homestead farm in Palmer township and was educated in the district schools. He remained at home until twenty-four years of age. His father gave him eighty acres of land in sec-

tion 13 of Palmer township before his marriage. He cleared about twenty acres of this farm before his marriage, and after his marriage moved to this farm, built the buildings, cleared, ditched and fenced the land.

To Celestian and Elizabeth (Jones) Noirot, Jr., have been born nine children: Lenora, on February 5, 1897; Augustus C., November 15, 1898, died on October 28, 1903; Oscar, September 10, 1899, died on September 4, 1900; Ruth, October 2, 1901; Harmon, February 20, 1904; Jesse, August 16, 1906; Pearl, January 6, 1909; Loretta, March 16, 1911, and Marie, May 23, 1913.

Celestian Noirot, Jr., engages in general farming. He is not a member of any lodge nor has he held any offices. He is identified with the Democratic party. He and his family are members of the St. Nicholas Catholic church at Miller City. Mr. Noirot is a man of congenial temperament. He is a good farmer and industrious in his habits. He is a good provider and is interested in his home and family. He is well informed in all of the relations of life and keeps everything on his farm in good condition.

JOHN BALL.

John Ball, the subject of this sketch, has been a prominent factor in the development of Putnam county and especially of Palmer township, where he has lived so long. He is well known to all the people of Palmer township as an enterprising, industrious and successful farmer.

John Ball was born on January 20, 1854, in Stark county, Ohio, near Canton. He is the son of Ferdinand and Emeline (Gross) Ball. Ferdinand Ball was born on August 25, 1825, in Germany, and was the son of Barney and Mary M. Ball. Ferdinand came with his parents to America at the age of five years. They settled in Stark county, Ohio. Barney and Mary M. Ball were farmers and were early pioneers of that county. They had thirteen children: Barney, Jr.; George; Mathias; John; Ferdinand; Caroline; Eva, who lives in Henry county, Ohio; Mary, who lives in Defiance county; Elizabeth, who lives in Washington, D. C. The first six children named are deceased, and Magdalene is also deceased and three others who are not now a matter of record.

Ferdinand Ball, the father of John Ball, was educated in Carroll and Seneca counties. In Carroll county he grew to manhood and married. He

learned the blacksmith trade and was an expert at this trade. His parents, Barney and Mary M. Ball, came from Stark county to Seneca county, where they farmed for a time and then moved to Carroll county. Later they came to Putnam county, Ohio, together with John Ball's father, Ferdinand, after his marriage. They settled on a farm of forty acres in section 7, of Palmer township. Barney Ball and wife died on this farm and Ferdinand, their son, farmed this forty acres. He also had a blacksmith shop on the farm and followed this trade along with farming. He, subsequently, increased this forty acres by hard work and rigid economy to nearly two hundred acres, all of which lay in Palmer township. He also had a farm of forty acres in Monroe township, Putnam county. He followed farming all of his life and retired from blacksmithing some time before his death, January 16, 1910. He was a man of strong physical proportions, a kind, careful, prudent citizen and a good provider. He was not a member of any lodge and a man who cared nothing for political offices. He devoted all of his time to farming and to his family. He always voted the Democratic ticket. He was a stanch member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church, at New Bavaria, Ohio, and gave three acres of ground for the building of St. Joseph's church at North creek, which he attended during his latter years. He also gave liberally to the support of the church and was a regular attendant. Both of his parents died on the home farm where John Ball grew to manhood.

Emeline Gross was born near Luxemburg, Germany, and came to America with her parents when she was quite young. They settled in Stark county, Ohio. Her parents were farmers in Germany and she grew to womanhood on a farm in Stark county. She was educated there. She was married to Ferdinand Ball, May 13, 1845. She was born on June 10, 1831, and died on December 26, 1895. She was a good mother, kind and patient, and worked with zeal and effort to build up the home. She did her share toward improving the family fortune and honor. She was an active member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria and later of St. Joseph's church at North Creek. Ferdinand and Emeline Ball were the parents of the following children: Henry, who lives on the homestead farm; John, the subject of this sketch; George, a merchant at North Creek, Ohio; William, of Palmer township; Mrs. Mary Engleman, of North Creek; Catherine, deceased; and Susanna, who lives on the homestead farm.

Ferdinand Ball was a soldier in the Civil War, having enlisted at Defiance, Ohio, in the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1864. He served until the close of the war and was a gallant soldier.

John Ball was educated in the old district No. 3 school in Palmer township and grew up on the homestead farm. He was reared a farmer and still continues to reside on the farm where he was born. His sister, Susanna, who is unmarried, lives with him and his brother, Henry, also lives with him. The buildings on the farm were erected by Ferdinand Ball. The house was built in 1880 and the barn in 1882.

John Ball was never married. He is not a member of any lodge and has held no offices except that of supervisor. He is a Democrat and is a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek. Mr. Ball follows general farming. He owns a thoroughbred Shorthorn cow and an imported Belgian mare.

Susanna Ball, his sister, was born on April 18, 1864, in Palmer township on the homestead farm. She lives with her brother, John, and was educated in the No. 3 school of Palmer township. She is a good, capable, companionable woman and a keen manager. John Ball is a congenial man. He is a good farmer and is prosperous and progressive.

Henry Ball, the brother of John Ball, and the son of Ferdinand and Emeline (Gross) Ball, was born on March 23, 1852, in Stark county, Ohio. He came to Putnam county, this state, with his parents at the age of six years, and was reared a farmer, grew up and was educated at the district No. 3 school in Palmer township.

Henry Ball was married on May 26, 1903, to Mrs. Mary (Welch) Burkhart, who was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and the daughter of James Welch and wife, natives of Ireland.

After the marriage of Henry Ball, he moved to sixty acres of land owned by his wife, in Liberty township, and farmed here for two years. His wife died on April 24, 1905, when the farm was sold. After this, Henry Ball came back to the homestead farm in Palmer township and here he has resided since that time with his brother, John, and sister, Susanna.

John Ball learned the carpenter trade when a young man and followed this trade for many years. He has erected many buildings in Palmer township. He helped to build the parish buildings at Miller City, Ohio. Mr. Ball also farms in a general way and has eighty acres in section 1, of Monroe township, and here he raises sugar beets. He also has forty acres in section 7, of Palmer township, which his brother, John, farms.

Henry Ball has no children. He is not a member of any lodges. He was township assessor for one year, in 1882, and is a Democrat in politics. He is a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek. Henry Ball is well liked in the community where he lives.

GEORGE KRATZER.

There is no better known or more highly respected citizen of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, than George Kratzer, who was born on October 17, 1845, at Lancaster, Fairfield county, Ohio, the son of Charles and Margaret (Schumaker) Kratzer. Charles Kratzer was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and Margaret Schumaker was born in the same locality. They were married in America and lived in Fairfield county until George was past ten years of age. They next spent three years in Hancock county, Ohio, and, in February, 1859, moved to the Medary farm at Medary, Liberty township, Putnam county.

On this place, Charles Kratzer died, in 1862, leaving a wife and nine children, Catherine Barbara, Charles W., Sarah, George, Samuel, Henry, Jacob F., John M. and Louise. Of these children four are dead, who were, Barbara, Louise, Henry and Charles. After the father's death, the mother bought forty acres of land in the northeast quarter of section 16 of Liberty township, where she lived from 1863 until her death, in 1895.

George Kratzer was reared on his mother's farm, after his father's death, and operated the home farm as long as his mother lived. He was married in 1881 to Mary Margaret Mack. She was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county in infancy with her parents, Christian and Mary (Stiger) Mack.

Christian Mack was born in Ohio and reared in Fairfield county. He was both a farmer and a wagonmaker. His wife was Mary Stiger, who was a native of Switzerland, and who came to America at the age of eight, with her parents. They settled near Basil, in Fairfield county, Ohio, in the early days, and purchased a farm south of that place. Christian Mack and family moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1858 and located in section 23, just west of West Leipsic, where he bought a farm and there lived until his death. He was township trustee several terms, also served as assessor of his township, township treasurer, and a member of the school board for many years. He was an active member of the Lutheran church and helped build the church of that denomination in Liberty township, as well as the one in Leipsic. He died on February 15, 1894, while his widow survived him until May, 1897. They were the parents of eight children who grew to maturity, Edward, Henry, George, Frederick, Franklin, Mrs. Margaret Kratzer, Mrs. Catherine Kratzer and Mrs. Sarah Hammon.

To George and Mary Margaret (Mack) Kratzer four children have been born, Leroy, Cora, Henry and Bertha M., deceased. Leroy, born in

1884, married Mame Hall and is living at Wheeling, West Virginia; Cora E. married Charles Rosenberger and lives in Blanchard township; Henry Glen, in 1893, is also at home.

George Kratzer is the owner of one hundred acres of splendid farming land, on which he carries on a diversified system of general farming and stock raising with pronounced success. He and his family are members of St. John's Lutheran church, and Mr. Kratzer belongs to the Maccabees lodge. He is an adherent of the Democratic party, is highly respected in the community where he lives, takes an active interest in public questions, and is well informed on all matters which pertain to the public welfare. For many years he has been a leader in Liberty township.

GEORGE LEINSETTER.

The Leinsetter family are of German ancestry and the first members are located in Putnam county, Ohio, about 1838, in which year the father of George Leinsetter entered a tract of government land in Liberty township. Mr. Leinsetter started out in the world in a very humble manner, working in his youth for fifty and seventy-five cents a day, which was considered big wages at that time. Many a day he worked from sun-up until sun-down, and in his early manhood cradled wheat day after day. He well remembers when his mother spun, wove and made his tow-linen clothes, and he was sixteen years old before he had his first factory-made suit. He has pulled, dried, broken and hackled flax and sat by his mother while she spun and wove the cloth for the family wardrobe. He still owns an old coverlet which his mother wove with her own hands, that today is as bright as it was when it was dyed by her hands.

George Leinsetter, the son of John A. and Elizabeth (Krebs) Leinsetter, was born near the center of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1851. His father was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, and at the age of nine came to America with his parents. The family first located in Baltimore, later went to Pennsylvania, and, in 1838, made their permanent home in Putnam county, Ohio, in Liberty county.

John A. Leinsetter grew to manhood in Liberty township and lived for a time with his brother-in-law, George Hagely, and later bought a farm which was covered with heavy timber. He cleared the land and lived in the same neighborhood the remainder of his life. His wife, Elizabeth Krebs, was the

daughter of John and Anna Krebs, who came from near Lewiston, Pennsylvania, to Lorain county, Ohio, where she lived during her girlhood days. Her father was one of the first settlers in Liberty township in Putnam county, locating here about 1835, on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, where the Ottawa and Napoleon road crosses the Nickel Plate railroad. At that time the Indians were still here, and it was not until two years afterward that they moved across the Mississippi. Bears, deer and all kinds of small game were still abundant in the woods. The Indians made maple sugar at a sugar grove not far from where the family located. John A. Leinsetter had one hundred and twenty acres and farmed all of his life. He was a township trustee for two terms and a man who was highly regarded in the community where he lived. Seven children were born to John A. Leinsetter and wife, five of whom are living: George, John H., Jacob, Mrs. Anna H. Haughn and David. The deceased children are Catherine, who died at the age of two; Charles, who died on December 6, 1910.

Charles C. Leinsetter, who was born on the home farm in 1864, grew to manhood there, and after his marriage rented the home place from his parents while they lived and from the heirs after the farm was divided. He married Mary Easton in 1903, who was a native of Liberty township, the daughter of James and Esther (Terlinger) Easton. Her father was reared in Liberty township, and was a son of George Easton, an early settler of the county. Charles C. Leinsetter died on December 6, 1910, and his widow rented out the farm for three years and lived with her sister and brother-in-law. In February, 1914, she was married to John H. Leinsetter, and since that time she has made her home on the old Leinsetter homestead. John H. Leinsetter was born, October 13, 1858, on the old home farm, worked at home until of age, and spent about a year in Michigan. He then went west and spent five years and was in Oklahoma at the time it was opened for settlement. He made a little money by getting in early on the land opening, and came back to Putnam county and worked at the carpenter trade and made his home with his parents until they died, and afterward with his brother, Charles C. He owned land in Kansas, and now has a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Howell county, Missouri.

George Leinsetter worked at home at all kinds of farm work, logging, ditching, and all kinds of hard manual labor, working for fifty and seventy-five cents a day, considering it a good wage. He also spent about two years in western Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. After his marriage, he started in with only about forty acres, half of which was cleared. Later, he put the remainder in cultivation and has made a good little farm out of it. About

eighteen years ago, he bought forty acres more, across the road south from his original farm, and later secured thirty acres from his father. Soon after this he purchased the shares of the other heirs of the estate. He and his wife have two children, and his son has been a great help to him on the farm.

George Leinsetter was married, in 1878, to Margaret Kuntz, who was born and reared in Switzerland, and came to this country with a relative when a girl soon after the Civil War. The two children of Mr. Leinsetter and wife are: Ida M. and Harvey A. Ida M. married Henry E. Mullett, and lives about three miles northwest of the old home. She has three children, Alvin, Bertha and Clarence; Harvey A. is helping his father with the work on the home farm. Mr. Leinstetter and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church.

PHILIP SCHEY, JR.

The life of the farmer of today is the most independent existence that can be enjoyed. With all the modern inventions to facilitate farming, it is rapidly losing those objections which have always appeared so ominous to the average farmer lad. Again, the public school has taken cognizance of this subject, and today, in the schools of Ohio, farming is being taught and in many cases, given as much attention as arithmetic. Our colleges are granting degrees in agriculture, and farmers' short courses are being given everywhere. No better farming land can be found in the state than in Putnam county, and among the many good agriculturists of the county there is none who has made more of a success of this time-honored occupation than Philip Schey, Jr.

Philip Schey, Jr., was born, November 27, 1858, on Elm Creek, seven miles south of Columbus, Ohio. He is a son of Philip Schey, Sr., and Catherine (Bouch) Schey, the life history of whom may be found elsewhere in this volume.

Philip Schey, Jr., was ten years of age when the family moved to near Medary, Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. Here the lad bore his full share in the toil and hardships of the early settlers of the Black swamp. He lived at home until his marriage, assisting his father with the farm work, and thus early learning all the principles of good farming.

Philip Schey, Jr., was married in 1884 to Pauline Yenner, a sister of John Yenner, whose biography tells of Mrs. Schey's parentage. Mrs. Schey died in 1885, leaving one daughter, Cora Louise, the wife of John E. Hat-

horn, who is school supervisor in the northwest part of Putnam county, and who lives at Continental. They have two daughters, Pauline and Mabel. Mr. Schey was married a second time to Magdalene Wirth, in 1886, who was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who is a daughter of Samuel and Magdalena (Bauer) Wirth. Samuel Wirth came from Breis-Darmstadt, Germany, about 1850, and first located at Columbus, Ohio, where he worked for a time in the quarries, getting out stone for the state house. He came to Liberty township, in this county, about 1852, and located in the southwest part of Liberty township, where he purchased a farm, and here he lived until about twelve years ago, when he moved to Holgate. Later he moved north of Holgate, where his wife died in 1905, after which Mr. Wirth spent the remaining years of his life with his daughter, Mrs. Schey, and died at her home, in October, 1912.

When a youth, Mr. Schey purchased eighty acres of land, but later sold half of this tract and began farming on the remainder, where he is now living. This land was partly cleared, but not drained. From the time of his marriage, Mr. Schey lived on this farm, and from an humble beginning he has made his own way in the world, until he is now the owner of two hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land which is well improved with a neat and substantial brick house, equipped with a private lighting plant, with commodious barns and other outbuildings, making it one of the best farms in the county.

Seven children have been born to Philip Schey, Jr., by his second marriage: George, who married Olive Hyde, lives just north of his father, and has one daughter, Catherine; Walter, who married Jessie Pickens, lives on a farm adjoining his father's, and they have two sons, Woodrow and Donald; Will, who married Mabel Kratzer, lives at home; Charles, of New Orleans; while Homer, Samuel and Amelia are living at home.

Philip Schey, Jr., has always taken an interest in public affairs in his community, and has held nearly all of the official positions in his township. At present he is township treasurer. He is a busy man always and faithful in his endeavor to improve, not only his own condition, but that of the community as well. Mr. Schey and family are members of the Lutheran church, in which he especially is an active worker. He teaches a Bible class in both the Lutheran and Evangelical churches, the former in the morning and the latter in the afternoon of Sunday. In all respects he must be considered a representative citizen of Putnam county and one, therefore, entitled to rank among the progressive men of his day and generation, whose life histories

are told in this volume. Mr. Schey is not only a man of influence in his community, but he is a man who has always wielded this influence for the public good.

PETER SCHEY.

Though Nature affords excellent opportunity for carrying on certain lines of labor in every locality, there is demanded of every man great industry and diligence, if he succeeds. Competition makes him put forth his best efforts and it requires great care to conduct any business enterprise along profitable lines. This is especially true of farming, and from the time of the earliest spring planting, until the crops are harvested, the farmer's life is a busy one. Even through the winter months, he prepares for the labors of the coming year and thus lays the foundation of his success for the ensuing season. Yet the farmer leads the most independent life and always has the satisfaction of getting a day off whenever he desires. Putnam county farmers are not excelled anywhere in the state, and among these excellent farmers is Peter Schey.

Peter Schey was born on July 14, 1862, at Elm Creek, Franklin county, Ohio, the son of Philip and Catherine (Bouch) Schey, the life history of whom is given on another page of this volume.

Peter Schey was a boy of seven years when the family moved to Liberty township, Putnam county. He lived on the home farm until he had attained his majority. He began farming for himself at this time and rented land for three years. Subsequently, he purchased forty acres in Henry county and lived there four years. He then moved back to Liberty township and sold out his farm holdings in Henry county and purchased the eighty acres where he now lives. At the time Mr. Schey purchased this land, there were few improvements on it. He erected a splendid house and commodious and comfortable barns. Mr. Schey has made out of this land a good farm. He purchased eighty acres more about 1906, and in 1912 he added forty acres, making two hundred acres, all in one body and all good land; in fact, no more fertile or more productive land can be found anywhere.

When a young man, Mr. Schey did some ditch contracting and hauling timber; in fact, he has never hesitated to do any honorable work which might bring him success. His first eighty-acre farm was purchased for forty-two dollars an acre in February, 1895; in 1907 he paid eighty-five dollars an acre, and in 1912 he paid one hundred and sixty dollars an acre, in all cases,

getting practically no improvements except the bare land. Practically all of Mr. Schey's farm was a swamp and appeared absolutely worthless at the beginning, but since he has drained and improved it, no better land is to be found anywhere.

Peter Schey was married in March, 1893, to Lenna Hensel, who was born in Baden, Germany, and who is the daughter of John and Magdalene (Weaver) Hensel. She came to America with her mother at the age of eight years, her father having died in Germany, of smallpox, and her brother died on the way to America. The mother and seven children who arrived safely in America and located in Franklin county about twelve miles northwest of Columbus. There Mrs. Schey lived until her marriage. To this union five sons and one daughter have been born, John, Fred, Edward, Frank, Emil and Florence.

Peter Schey served three years on the school board and is now the trustee of Liberty township, Putnam county. He is also a trustee of the Mutual Telephone Company of Leipsic, a successful, co-operative company, the success of which has been due to a considerable degree to Mr. Schey's able directions, who, together with his family, are members of the Lutheran church. In Liberty township, where Peter Schey lives, his name means all of those things which stand for honor and respectability in the community. Mr. Schey and his brothers and all of their families are prominent in Liberty township and well known throughout Putnam county.

HENRY BECKMAN.

The rise from poverty to affluence has developed the character of many men living in Putnam county, Ohio. They have remained honest and loyal to their early interests, however, and are ever interested in the welfare of the community and in its progress. One of the most respected and progressive farmers of this county is Henry Beckman, who lives south of Ottawa in Ottawa township. Henry Beckman is a son of Bernard Beckman, Sr., and Hannah M. (Shonhoff) Beckman.

Bernard Beckman, Sr., was a poor boy, and was in debt for his passage to America when he landed here. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on August 24, 1828, the son of John B. H. and Elizabeth (Barlage) Beckman. He came to Putnam county, Ohio, in December, 1848, and lived for a time at Gilendorf. He was married in December, 1850, to Anna M. Schonhoff, who was also a native of Oldenburg, Germany, her birth having occurred there

on November 2, 1832, the daughter of Herman H. and Mary A. (Wessel) Schonhoff. She came to America about 1849.

After Bernard Beckman, Sr., was married, he bought forty acres of land on the south side of Ottawa township, which was partly cleared. He paid six hundred dollars for this land, on which was a house, but not much else in the way of improvements. A short time before that, he bought two other forty-acre tracts, one for two hundred dollars and the other for four hundred dollars. He spent his life on his farm south of Ottawa. There were six children who grew to maturity, John, Bernard II., Henry, Mary B., Joseph and Elizabeth. The father of these children died on February 13, 1895, at the age of sixty-six, while his wife died on October 27, 1899, at the age of sixty-six. He and his family were devoted adherents of the Catholic church at Ottawa.

Henry Beckman grew to maturity on the farm where he was born. He was married on November 11, 1891, to Anna Kleform. She was born in Ottawa township, just south of Ottawa, the daughter of John and Catherine (Recker) Kleform. John Kleform was born and reared on the farm where Mrs. Beckman was born. He was a son of Gerhardt and Elizabeth (Sponhoff) Kleform, who settled in Putnam county in 1837. Catherine Recker was born in 1850, the daughter of H. H. and Mary Recker, who came to Putnam county in 1835. John Kleform and wife were married at Glandorf in 1867, and spent the remainder of their lives on the farm where Mrs. Beckman was born.

Ever since Henry Beckman was married he has farmed the home place. His father was a cripple, for probably thirty-five years, before his death, and from the time Henry Beckman was sixteen years old, he has operated the farm. After his marriage, his parents lived with him until they died. Henry Beckman has followed agricultural pursuits all his life, and for seven years served as township trustee of Ottawa township, a position which he filled with exceptional ability, winning the approval of the citizens of the entire township.

Henry and Anna (Kleform) Beckman are the parents of five children living and two who died in infancy. Those living are Loretta, Philomina, Salome, Elmer and Hubert. Loretta is the wife of William Rieman, and lives northeast of Ottawa. She has one daughter, Lucile; Philomina is the wife of John Selhorst, and lives in Pleasant township.

Henry Beckman is a large, broad-shouldered man of splendid physique, candid and outspoken in his manner and more inclined to do a favor than to promise it. Naturally, he is a highly-respected citizen of the community

where he resides. Mr. Beckman still has the spinning wheel which his mother used and also he has an old flail of pioneer pattern, which is always an object of interest to visitors. He, with his family, are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church at Ottawa. He at present farms one hundred and seventeen acres, all of which is located in Ottawa and Pleasant township. Mr. Beckman raises a great deal of poultry and now has almost three hundred chickens on the farm of all kinds. He sells quite a number and has been very successful.

PHILIP SCHEY, SR.

A review of the life of the honored and lamented Philip Schey, Sr., must of necessity be brief and general in its character. To enter fully into the interesting details of his career, touching the struggles of his early manhood and successes of later days, would far transcend the limits of this article. He filled a large place in the range of the enterprising and public-spirited men of his day and generation, and the luster of his good deeds, and the memories which attach to his name and character form no inconsiderable chapter in the history of the community where he did his work and achieved his success. He is entitled to the honorable position he long occupied among the brave and energetic self-made men of Putnam county, Ohio, who, by enterprise and unswerving integrity, forged to the front, surmounting all opposition and winning for the grand old Buckeye state a place second to none in the bright constellation which comprises the union of American states. That he did his work nobly and well cannot be gainsaid, and though dead, he yet speaks in the work which he founded and in the many kindly deeds and noble influence which not only his friends, but the community as well, prize as a grateful heritage.

Philip Schey, Sr., was born in Preisen-Darmstadt, Germany, on September 22, 1832. He came to America first at the age of fourteen, and after spending several years in this county, returned to his native land, but again, at the age of twenty-five, returned to the United States, locating south of Columbus, Ohio.

It was while living here that Mr. Schey was married on November 25, 1856, to Catherine Bouch, who was also a native of Germany, her birth having occurred in Wurttemberg, June 1, 1831, and who was a daughter of Jacob and Magdaline (Walter) Bouch. She came to America with her brother, Philip Bouch, while a small girl.

Philip Schey's mother was Catherine C. Emer before her marriage, and Philip was one of nine children. His parents both died while he was a lad. When he came first to America he lost all trace of his relatives, and for more than forty years was unable to locate them. When past middle life he advertised in numerous newspapers, and as a consequence of this advertising, located an old school mate of his boyhood days. Through this old school-mate he found some of his brothers.

When he went back to Germany in his youth, he served in the German army, and while there learned considerable about veterinary practice. Upon his return to America, he also learned the trade of wagon-making, and, until he came to Putnam county, he practiced as a veterinary and also worked as a wagonmaker.

He moved to Putnam county in 1868, locating near where the old town of Medary once stood, in the north part of Liberty township. Here he purchased forty acres of land, on which was a log cabin. Very little of this land was cleared and almost all of it was too wet to produce anything. At that time, the family was poor, but Philip Schey was joined in the labors on the farm by his wife and eldest son. Mr. Schey himself worked for more fortunate people who owned farms on the ridge. Ague, at that time, was a veritable plague on account of the swampiness of the soil. After the stave factory came to Putnam county and created a demand for timber, Mr. Schey sold some timber and thus acquired the means to drain his land. This gave him a start toward material success. He soon purchased another eighty acres, and his sons improved the land and made out of it a good farm.

There were eight children born to Philip, Sr., and Catherine (Bouch) Schey, six of whom are still living, Annie, the wife of J. T. Culver; Philip, Jr., who is referred to elsewhere in this volume; Mary, now deceased, was the wife of Samuel W. Gross; Peter, of Liberty township; John, of Liberty township; William A., deceased; Catherine M., the wife of William Heffner, and Caroline E., the wife of Frank Semler.

Philip Schey, Sr., died on November 17, 1879, while his widow survived him nearly twenty years, her death occurring in 1897. Both were earnest and active members of the Lutheran church, and took an active interest in its welfare.

Philip Schey, Sr., was a lover of all that was good and honest, a despiser of hypocrisy and shams of any sort. He was never able to obtain much education, but managed to acquire considerable information by home study and observation. He and his wife brought up a large family of children, whose lives prove that they were well reared and well trained in their youth. All

have their homes and are useful and honored members of the community, and all have an active part in the affairs of their respective townships, and for all of this, they are indebted to the good judgment and the loving kindness of their deceased parents, whom it is their delight to honor.

GEORGE W. KNELLER.

Young men who begin life with no pecuniary assistance and, who, without help, are able to get a good start while still young, surely are deserving of great credit. George W. Kneller is a young man who began life with no help from anyone and who has worked hard, lived frugally and saved. He now has a substantial competence, consisting of a well-improved farm in Liberty township.

George W. Kneller was born on May 18, 1872, in Fairfield county, Ohio, the son of Frederick and Mary (Walker) Kneller. Frederick Kneller was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1840, and at the age of six years came to America with his parents, Gottfried Kneller and wife, who settled in Hocking county, Ohio, where Mary Walker was born.

Frederick Kneller has been a life-long farmer in Fairfield county. He now lives in Lancaster, Ohio.

George W. Kneller lived in Fairfield county until 1891, when he came to Liberty township, Putnam county, and worked out as a farm hand. He was married on November 24, 1897, to Estella E. Krause, the daughter of Philip M. and Alenath (Bagley) Krause. She was born in Liberty township, Putnam county. Philip M. Krause was born in Fairfield county and came to Putnam county with his parents, when a small boy. They located on the Medary farm, in the northwestern part of Liberty township, but later bought a farm upon which George W. Kneller now lives. Here, Mr. Krause grew up and married Alemath Bagley. She was born at Bluffton, Allen county, Ohio, and was the daughter of Joseph Bagley and wife. Mr. Krause farmed on the home farm in Liberty township, until 1910, when he moved to Findlay, Ohio, where he bought another farm and resumed his occupation. George W. and Estella E. (Krause) Kneller have three children, Gladys Lorene, Orville Frederick and Willetta Grace.

After George W. Kneller's marriage, he bought the old Squire Krause farm, where he lives in section 9 of Liberty township. He started in this county with no money and worked for fifteen dollars a month. His farm he

bought on credit and he now has eighty-one and one-half acres. He erected a fine brick house in 1911 and has a splendid farm.

George W. Kneller is a Republican and takes an active interest in the councils of that party. He is a member of the local school board. He and his family belong to the Lutheran church and contribute of their means to the support of this denomination.

SAMUEL MYERS.

To make a success of farming, it is necessary to be something more than a hard worker. A farmer might labor from dawn to twilight, every day in the year, and yet fail to accomplish much. There must be sound judgment and discretion exercised at the same time, a knowledge of soil, grain, live stock, and, in fact, general business. The man who accomplishes much as a farmer in these days should be accorded a place along with the men who succeed in other walks of life, for often it requires more ingenuity and courage to be a farmer than anything else that claims the attention of men in the world of affairs. A brief review of the life of Samuel Myers, a well-known retired farmer of Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio, will suffice to show that he has achieved success in his life work because he has worked for it and partly because what he made has worked for him.

Samuel Myers was born on February 22, 1840, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Samuel, Sr., and Margaret (Hardin) Myers, the former of whom was born in Washington county, Maryland, on April 21, 1793, and the latter born in Licking county, Ohio, on May 8, 1816.

Samuel Myers, Sr., was the son of John and Mary (Dillon) Myers. John Myers was a native of Maryland, of German descent, and a wealthy farmer and landowner. He also owned a mill and distillery. His children were fourteen in number, six of whom are now living: John, Jacob, Mrs. Mira Shank, Mrs. Barbara Shank, Henry, Samuel, Sr., and Mrs. Anna Stauffer. Mary Dillon was a native of Pennsylvania and a member of the Mennonite church, dying at a ripe old age. John Myers was a staunch Democrat and an influential citizen in the community where he lived. Mrs. Margaret (Hardin) Myers was the daughter of Abraham and Catherine (Wishart) Hardin, the former of whom was a son of William Hardin, who served seven years in the Continental army during the Revolutionary War and who died at the age of one hundred and four years. Abraham Hardin served



SAMUEL MYERS.



THE LIFE OF
JAMES M. SMITH

BY JAMES M. SMITH

OF THE BOARD AND VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

in the War of 1812, from Licking county, Ohio, under General Wayne. Mrs. Margaret Myers' grandfather Wishart was born in Scotland and settled in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where he lived to be ninety-eight years old. Samuel Myers, Sr., and Margaret Hardin were married on Christmas day, 1832. They had ten children: Adelina, who married Joseph Boxwell; Mrs. Anna A. Ayers, of Columbus Grove; Samuel, Jr., the subject of this sketch; Jacob, who was wounded June 27, 1864, at Kenesaw Mountain and died on September 27, 1864, from the effects of the wound received at that time; Abraham, who died at Nashville, Tennessee, during the Civil War; Susannah, who married G. D. McClure, of Jackson township, Putnam county; Margaret, deceased, who married Daniel Wilser, also deceased; David, who died in infancy; Huldah, deceased, who married Godfrey Guyer, of Leipsic, Ohio, and Malinda, deceased, who married Sam Price. The great-grandfather of these children, Dr. David Wishart, was a celebrated physician in the state of Pennsylvania.

Samuel Myers, Sr., was educated in the state of Maryland and came to Putnam county in 1829, where he purchased a tract of land in Greensburg township, on the Blanchard river. Here he built a house, and subsequently sent for his family, including his father, mother, three brothers and three sisters, Jacob, Joseph, John, Maria, Barbara and Fanny. Soon after their arrival two other brothers, Peter and Henry, came. Mrs. Margaret Myers was the first white woman married in Putnam county. Samuel Myers, Sr., built a dam for a saw-mill in 1834, and also a grist-mill, completing the latter in 1843. He operated the grist-mill for many years and performed a great deal of the labor himself. He took great pride in the construction of this mill, which was exceedingly well built of heavy hewed timber. It was a three-story mill with a hip roof. A patent was later given on this style of roof. The frame timbers were fourteen by thirteen inches, the first floor beams were twelve inches, the second floor ten inches and the third floor eight inches. The buckets for the mill were scrolled out by a millwright named Graves, and in later years a patent was issued to a man by the name of Ross for similar wheel buckets. The mill had undershot wheels. It was built in 1840, and was torn down in January, 1915. The timber was in an excellent state of preservation and was used in a barn in the neighborhood. The timber was cut in February, in the dark of the moon, as tests prior to this show that this timber lasts longer.

Samuel Myers, Sr., was not only an early pioneer, but a man of excellent business ability and of sound business principles. Besides farming, he could

do many other things. He was a stonemason, a carpenter, a blacksmith, a fuller in wool factories and was well acquainted with all of the intricacies of the lumber business. He died on August 27, 1860, at the age of sixty-seven years, and his wife died on May 16, 1901, at the age of eighty-five. Samuel Myers, Sr., was a man of broad views and was extremely public-spirited. He built three miles of plank road in Putnam county and contributed one thousand dollars toward its construction. In politics, he was originally a Whig and was honored at various times by election to local offices. He was one of the first county commissioners and was the first school examiner. He was trustee for many years and built the first school house in the township. Religiously, he was an influential member of the Mennonite church and a liberal contributor to the church. To Samuel Myers, Sr., the people are greatly indebted for much of its early development.

Samuel Myers, Jr., was reared on his father's farm and educated in the old log schoolhouse in Perry township, near his home. He worked on the farm until he was twenty-two years of age and then became a boatman on the canal. During the summer he performed odd jobs in connection with his work as a boatman. He followed this vocation for about three years. In December, 1862, Mr. Myers purchased the farm of eighty acres in Paulding county, Ohio, and farmed there until February 1, 1864, when he enlisted in Company G, Fifty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private. This company was attached to the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, under Sherman. Mr. Myers was in the army with Sherman which marched from Atlanta to the sea. He assisted in the capture of Fort McAllister and took part in fourteen battles. In fact, he fought with Sherman until the close of the war. He was known for his courage, efficiency and valor. He was discharged at Little Rock, Arkansas, August 15, 1865. Among the battles in which Mr. Myers participated were those of Resaca, Dallas, Dalton, Buzzard's Roost, Nickajack Creek (where he was wounded in the hip by a shell), Big Kenesaw Mountain, Little Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Fort McAllister, Raleigh, North Carolina, and Columbus, South Carolina. He participated in the Grand Review at Washington, D. C., at the end of the war.

Having sold his eighty-acre farm before he went to the war, he returned to Paulding county, Ohio, and rented a tract of land for three years, later selling his lease, and then removed to his present farm of eighty-five acres, on June 6, 1866. He has added to this farm until, at one time, he owned more than three hundred and fifty acres. During late years, however, he has sold most of it because of his failing health and age. Mr. Myers

has fifty-five acres adjoining the thirty where he resides. He also has forty acres in section 28 of Perry township. Throughout his life, Mr. Myers has followed general farming. He was active until 1888, when he was injured in a railroad wreck at Anthony, Ohio, near Springfield.

Samuel Myers has also followed road contracting and has built many roads in Putnam county. He owned a stone-crusher at one time, but sold it to John Blosser, of Cloverdale, Ohio. He has also been engaged in the timber business, more or less, since 1866.

Samuel Myers, Jr., was married on April 14, 1862, to Mary Elizabeth Mercer, who was born at Cuyhoga Falls, near Cleveland, Ohio, on August 1, 1842, the daughter of Steven and Catherine (Dillworth) Mercer. Mr. Myers got his license from the probate judge of Paulding county, Ohio, and was married by the justice of the peace, J. R. Cushman.

Samuel and Mary Elizabeth (Mercer) Myers have had three children: Abraham H., who was born on November 19, 1863, died on March 20, 1899; Margaret Catherine, born August 22, 1866, married George Curtis, a farmer of Washington township, Paulding county, and has seven children, Mrs. Julia McCullough, Samuel, John, Bertha, Mary, Merle and William Bryan; Susan, May 24, 1868, who married Andrew J. Ladd, a farmer of Brown township, Paulding county, Ohio, and had four children by this marriage, Flossie and Florence, twins, and Henry and Samuel. Florence is deceased. Susan had previously married Clyde Hamilton, who died, and to this union there were born two children, George, deceased, and Mrs. Malinda Bright. Abraham, the eldest child, who died in 1899, was married to Sarah E. Combs and had four children, Walter, Bertha, William J. and Abram.

Mrs. Samuel Myers, as heretofore noted, is the daughter of Steven and Catherine (Dillworth) Mercer, the former of whom settled in Williams county, Ohio. He was the son of John Mercer, also a native of Pennsylvania. From Williams county, Ohio, Steven Mercer came to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where he was married. After living here for a time, they moved to Providence, Henry county, Ohio, across from Grand Rapids, Ohio, on the Maumee river, where he lived until his death in 1850. He was a stone mason by trade and followed this trade all of his life, although he was reared on a farm. His wife is still living with her son, Abraham, in Michigan. She is a cousin of William McKinley and is now eighty-seven years of age. Steven and Catherine Mercer had four children: Mary E., the wife of Mr. Myers; Francis, who was killed in the army; Thomas, who lives at Alverton, Williams county, Ohio, and Isaac, who died on December 25, 1913. After the death of Steven Mercer, his wife was married again to William Richardson, and

to this union were born two children: Abraham, who lives in Michigan, and Mrs. Victorine Menervia Jane Whittner, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Samuel Myers is a man of congenial temperament, is frank in his manners and is well informed regarding all current, political and economic issues. He is a man of unquestioned honesty and his word has never been doubted. Mr. Myers has seen many changes in the county and township where he lives and has undergone many hardships during his life. He has seen much happiness and much sorrow. He is a man widely known throughout Putnam county as one of the pioneer citizens, and no history of Putnam county would be complete that did not make specific mention of his life and his work. He has been a Republican in politics and has served in various minor offices, including that of township trustee. During the time when the national Grange flourished in Putnam county he was prominent in the work of that organization. He is also a member of Weiser Post No. 63, Grand Army of the Republic.

MATTHIAS SCHROEDER.

The Schroeder family located in Putnam county, Ohio, in 1834, a year or so after the first German settlers came to this county. At that time the whole county was a heavily-timbered swamp, and many years were to elapse before much of this was under cultivation. Matthias Schroeder bought his present farm more than a quarter of a century ago, and has gradually improved it until he has a well-cultivated farm which yields a comfortable living for his family. He is an energetic and enterprising farmer, and while he has devoted himself primarily to his own interests, yet he has not neglected to take his share in the life of the community about him.

Matthias Schroeder, the son of Henry and Catherine (Hohenbrink) Schroeder, was born on January 23, 1856, in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio. His father was born in Glandorf, Germany, in 1821, and his wife was born in the same place.

Henry Schroeder came to America at the age of thirteen, with his parents, Nicholas and Anna (Trame) Schroeder, and located in Greensburg township. There were very few settlers in the county at that time, the German emigration to this county having commenced only two or three years before this time. Henry Schroeder grew to manhood in Putnam county and married Catherine Hohenbrink, who was about twenty years of age when she came from Germany to Putnam county, with her parents, William

Hohenbrink and wife. Her parents settled in Glandorf, in this county, and later, bought land in Pleasant township, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Henry Schroeder and his wife lived and died in Greensburg township, and there reared a family of thirteen children, five of whom are deceased. The deceased children are as follow: Wilhelmina, who died at the age of nine; Clara, who died at the age of eighteen; Mary, who died in 1906, leaving her husband, Joseph Dreling, with nine children; Dorothy, who died about the year 1903, leaving her husband, August Jostpill, with six children; and Ignatius, who died in 1904, as the result of a fall from a tree, leaving his wife and five children. The living children are John, William, Charles, Matthias, Frank, Mrs. Anna Duling, Mrs. Theresa Alker and Mrs. Catherine Stechschulte.

Matthias Schroeder was reared on his father's farm and received such education as was afforded by the district schools of his township. After his marriage, in 1883, Mr. Schroeder lived in Greensburg township until 1889, and then bought his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Liberty township, two miles north of West Leipsic. The farm was not very much improved when he bought it, but under his good management it is one of the most productive pieces of land in the township. He placed the comfortable home, in which he is now living with his family, on the farm, built a large barn and otherwise improved the place. As he prospered from year to year, was able to make extensive improvements and also add another forty acres to his original purchase.

Matthias Schroeder was married on May 3, 1882, to Mary Ellerbrock, who was born at Glandorf, in this county, on November 17, 1860, and is a daughter of William and Marianna (Udendorf) Ellerbrock. The history of Mrs. Schroeder's father's family is given elsewhere in this volume. Matthias and Mary (Ellerbrock) Schroeder are the parents of ten children, all of whom are still living: Adeline, born on March 27, 1883; Philomena, March 5, 1885; Elizabeth, April 6, 1887; Harry, June 26, 1889; Frances, May 3, 1891; Emma, May 21, 1893; Cornelia and Julius, twins, on February 26, 1896; Vincent, May 24, 1900, and Helen, July 6, 1902. Adeline is the wife of Frank Niese, a farmer of Liberty township, and has four children, three of whom are living, Vincent, Norbert and Frances; Philomena is a nun in the Franciscan convent at Tiffin, Ohio; Elizabeth is the wife of Lawrence Niese, a farmer of Palmer township, and has two children, Waldo and Mary; Harry is a farmer of Liberty township and married Mary Kohls; Frances married Howard Niese, a farmer of this township and has one son, Matthias; Emma married Fred Kaufman, a farmer of this county and has

one son, Albert. The rest of the children are still single and living with their parents.

The family are all loyal members of the Catholic church. Matthias Schroeder is a Democrat, and although he has never been an aspirant for public office, he takes an intelligent interest in the political affairs of his party. He is a man of industry and integrity and has so lived as to commend himself to all those with whom he has been associated.

LUDWIG STUBER.

The whole career of Ludwig Stuber has been spent in Putnam county, Ohio, where he was born more than half a century ago. His parents were of German ancestry, his father coming direct from Germany to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1855. Mr. Stuber has been a life-long farmer and started in a very humble way, after his marriage, and year after year has seen him more prosperous, and his present farm of two hundred and twenty-six acres is abundant proof that he has not labored in vain. He has been progressive in his methods, and by unceasing industry has asquired a very comfortable competence for himself and family.

Ludwig Stuber, the son of Christian and Catherine (Kleopfer) Stuber, was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1864. His father was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, and married a Miss Fritz, in his native land. He came to America in 1855 and located in Putnam county, where he bought eighty acres, and there his first wife died, leaving one son, Christian Stuber, Jr. Christian Stuber moved to Crawford county, Ohio, about 1856 or 1857, and shortly afterward to Seneca county, this state, where he married Catherine Kleopfer, who was born in Oberholm, Wurttemberg, Germany, and came to America with two brothers and one sister, settling in Seneca and Paulding counties, Ohio. Christian Stuber moved back to Palmer township, in this county, in 1857, and lived there the remainder of his life, dying on April 22, 1907. At the time of his death he owned four hundred and fifty acres of land. His widow survived him until September 10, 1913.

Ludwig Stuber is one of four sons and two daughters born to his father's second marriage. The other children are: Mary, Lida, Daniel, John and Henry. Ludwig grew to maturity on his father's farm in Palmer township, and after his marriage, in 1890, he moved to his present home in the southwestern part of section 1, of Liberty township. About forty acres of the farm were cleared and partly tilled, but a large part of it was still cov-

ered with primitive forest. He cleared and drained the land and, in 1897, put up a good barn with slate roof. Since that time, he has built many other good buildings and now owns one hundred and ninety-six acres of land, where he lives, and thirty acres along the Nickel Plate railroad on the west side of Liberty township. He is a genial farmer, dividing his time and attention between stock and grain raising, so as to get the best results from his efforts.

Ludwig Stuber was married on August 10, 1890, to Ella Gottmeier, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Fred and Sarah (Schweitzer) Gottmeier, and to this union eight children have been born, five of whom are living: Alvin, on May 30, 1894; Homer, December 25, 1895; Ruth, September 16, 1897; Winifred, March 14, 1900, and Helen, December 26, 1903. The three children deceased are as follows: Lillie, who died at the age of two; John, who died at the age of two weeks, and Mabel, who died on October 3, 1908, at the age of fifteen years and six months.

Frederick Gottmeier, the father of Mrs. Stuber, was born on January 14, 1841, in Baden, Germany, a son of Philip Gottmeier and his first wife. Frederick was a babe in arms when his mother died, and his father later married Christina Seyfried, and came to America in 1844. He spent the first year at Easton, Pennsylvania, and then located at Lancaster, Fairfield county, where he lived until Frederick grew up and married. Frederick Gottmeier was married a few months before he was twenty-one, to Elizabeth Dimple, who died six years later, leaving two daughters, Louise and Elizabeth. A son, John, died before his mother. Louise is the wife of Jacob Kratzer, of Liberty township, and has eight children; Elizabeth married Aaron Charles, of Liberty township, and has three children living and one deceased. On June 10, 1869, Mr. Gottmeier married Sarah Schweitzer, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, December 28, 1852, a daughter of Michael and Rose (Wolflinger) Schweitzer, both natives of Switzerland, who lived and died near Lancaster, Ohio. Frederick Gottmeier and wife moved to Putnam county and settled in Liberty township in 1871, where he bought a farm and lived until about 1895. He then retired and bought a home at Leipsic Junction, and died on May 24, 1915. Five children have been born to Frederick Gottmeier by his second marriage: Mrs. Ella Stuber, Mrs. Rebecca Mack, Samuel, Mrs. Emma Miller and Mrs. Myrtle Compton. Mrs. Stuber was a year old when her parents located in Liberty township, in this county, and here she has since resided.

Ludwig Stuber and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church and deeply interested in its welfare.

CHARLES T. HENRY.

A man of unusual energy and ability who has lived practically his whole life in Putnam county, Ohio, is Charles T. Henry, a substantial farmer of Liberty township. Born in Fairfield county, Ohio, he located in this county before he was three years of age with his parents, and here has since made his home. As a young man, he taught school for a few years and since that time has engaged in general farming. About twelve years ago he lost one of his arms in a corn shredder, nevertheless, still feeds a corn shredder with his one remaining hand. Such a disaster would dishearten many men, but Mr. Henry has probably been more successful since the accident than before because he draws on the resources of a sound intelligence to aid him in his daily labors. He has been active in the affairs of his county and held various official positions, in all of which he has given eminent satisfaction.

Charles T. Henry, the son of Levi P. and Jennie M. (McCandlish) Henry, was born on September 15, 1871, in Fairfield county, Ohio. For history of subject's parents, reader is referred to sketch of Levi Henry, which appears elsewhere in this volume.

Charles T. Henry was about eighteen months old when his parents moved to their present home in this county northwest of Leipsic, and on that farm he grew to manhood. He received a good common school education, and later, taught two years in the public school of this county, one year each in Blanchard and Van Buren township. After his marriage, Mr. Henry took charge of his father's farm and, in 1900, bought a farm adjoining his father's on the north. He has erected a fine country home and an excellent barn and various outbuildings on this farm, and now operates it together with the old home place.

Charles T. Henry was married on September 24, 1896, to Mary Mahala Neeland, who was born near Rick's Mills in Muskingum county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Andrew and Amelia (Ledman) Neeland, and to this union three children have been born, Gladys Edith, Robert P. and Jennie Amelia. The eldest daughter is attending high school and the other two children are still in the grades.

Mrs. Charles T. Henry's father was born at Clayville, Guernsey county, Ohio, and was a son of James Neeland and wife, an old and prominent family of Irish descent. The family, for two or three generations, were blacksmiths in Guernsey county. Amelia Ledman, the mother of Mrs. Henry, was a daughter of James and Massy Mahala (Cassidy) Ledman, and

was reared near Rick's Mills in Muskingum county, Ohio. Andrew Neeland was a blacksmith in early life and, after his marriage, farmed in Muskingum county. The Neeland family located three miles east of Leipsic along the Nickel Plate railroad about 1879, this railroad being built through the county during that year. Mrs. Henry has a distinct recollection of seeing the first engine run by her father's farm. Mr. Neeland continued farming near Leipsic until two or three years ago, when he retired from active work on account of old age and is now making his home with Charles T. Henry and wife. Mrs. Neeland died in March, 1906. He died on December 6, 1914.

Charles T. Henry takes an active interest in the Democratic party, and has served as clerk of Liberty township for five years, and for the past four years has served as a member of the county fair board. He is now serving his second term as a member of the school board of his township. In the spring of 1912, he was a candidate for recorder of Putnam county, but as he was a strong temperance man and votes "dry" whenever occasion offers, he lost the support of the liquor interests and, consequently, the election. Mr. Henry is a member of the Patrons of Husbandry, and he and his family are loyal members of the Presbyterian church, formerly holding their membership in the United Presbyterian church, which is now discontinued in Leipsic. Mr. Henry is a man of excellent character and is regarded as one of the leaders in all public-spirited movements in his township.

HENRY WARD.

The United States is the most cosmopolitan nation of the earth. Her citizens are drawn from every country and every clime. A residence of a few years in this country so imbues these people with the American spirit that they become our best citizens. No country has furnished better or more substantial citizens to the United States than the Emerald Isle. From this island have come many families who have won prominent places in the communities where they settled. Among the many immigrants of Irish descent, who have come to Ohio, there is none who are more loyal to their adopted country than the Ward family of Putnam county.

Henry Ward, one of the well-known farmers of Liberty township, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, on June 8, 1872, the son of Francis and Sarah E. (Bibler) Ward.

Francis Ward was born on November 17, 1831, in Glenest, in the dis-

trict of Kildare, near King's county, Ireland. He came to America when a lad of fifteen, in 1847, and the family were on a sailing vessel seven weeks on the voyage to America. At New York, both parents and one daughter died of typhoid fever within two or three weeks after landing. The seven orphans had an uncle in Licking county, Ohio, sixteen miles east of Columbus, who wired the authorities to send them to Cleveland. He met them in Cleveland and the children were divided among his married sons and daughters.

Francis Ward came to Ohio in September, 1847, and settled first in Licking county. Soon after the close of the Civil War, he settled in Hancock county, southwest of Findlay. In that county, he married Sarah E. Bibler and settled along the county line north of Bluffton. His wife was born ten miles southeast of Findlay and was the daughter of David and Elizabeth (Orvick) Bibler. Elizabeth Orvick was born in York county, Pennsylvania, on July 14, 1818, and came to Hancock county with her parents in October, 1835. She married David Bibler, August 27, 1840, and began housekeeping on the farm where she and her husband reared their family and spent all of their days. She died on April 7, 1900, at the age of eighty-one.

Sarah E. Bibler lived nearly all the remainder of her life, after her marriage, in Hancock county. She was the mother of three children by her marriage to Francis Ward, Lillie Belle, who married Clem Ward and lives in Lincoln, Michigan; Rhoda Jane, who married Robert Semler and lives between Findlay and Arcade, and Henry, who is the subject of this sketch.

The family moved to Putnam county in 1873 and located in Liberty township. On September 2, 1874, Mrs. Ward died, and after her death, Mr. Ward returned to Hancock county. He married Mrs. Catherine Payne (nee Treece) in 1876, and the year following this marriage, returned to Putnam county, where he resided until his death, August 13, 1902. He left two children by his second marriage, Mrs. Sarah E. Swihart and Mrs. Luella Wagner. The mother of these children died in March, 1909.

Henry Ward came to Putnam county with his father and after the death of his mother, lived with his maternal grandfather until his father married again, when he came back to Putnam county and lived on the home farm until his marriage.

Henry Ward was married on December 27, 1894, to Virdie Casteel, who was born in the northeastern part of Liberty township and who is the daughter of Andrew and Margaret (Sterret) Casteel. Mrs. Henry Ward lived upon the farm with her parents until her marriage.

Andrew Casteel was born on April 22, 1834, in Licking county, Ohio.

He is the son of Thomas and Salome (Livingstone) Casteel. Andrew Casteel was reared on a farm and, at the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted in the First Ohio Cavalry, in Company D, and served until the end of the war. He was with Sherman's army, in Tennessee, and in the battles of Stone's River, Lookout Mountain, Shiloh, Chickamauga, and Missionary Ridge, as well as a number of other important battles fought by the western army. He was never wounded or captured. At the end of the war, Andrew Casteel came to Putnam county and purchased land in Liberty township. He now owns about four hundred and seventy-six acres, sixty of which are in Michigan, and has farmed all of his life. He was married, in 1865, to Margaret Sterret, a native of Licking county and a daughter of Robert and Nancy (McLaughlin) Sterret. Andrew and Margaret (Sterret) Casteel have been the parents of three sons and five daughters, Della, who lives at home and keeps house for her father; Nancy Alice, who is the wife of Joseph Bishop, of Henry county, and has six children; Minnie Virginia, who is the wife of Mr. Ward; Wesley, who lives in Henry county, married Belle Leary, and has three children; Andrew Smith, who died in April, 1905, married Cora Bishop and had five children; Laura Ellen, the wife of Orville Lazenby, who lives on the east line of Liberty township and has three children; Leroy Gibson, who lives at Quincy, Michigan, married Rhoda Newell and has five children; Salome Elizabeth, who died in February, 1911, was the wife of Charles Lazenby, of Henry county, and had two daughters. Mrs. Andrew Casteel died on November 6, 1906. She was a member of the Disciples church, which she joined in Licking county when a young woman. Here she belonged to the West Bellmore church. Mr. Casteel is one of the oldest living residents of Putnam county, now being past eighty years of age, but still does his own work. His sight is still very good and he often reads by lamp light until ten or eleven o'clock at night. He has kept up with the times in every particular and is a well-informed man.

After the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ward, he farmed in Henry county two years and then came to the Casteel farm where he lived for eight years. In the fall of 1905, he bought eighty acres in Liberty township, south of Prentiss, where he now resides.

To Henry and Virdie (Casteel) Ward, seven children have been born, Francis, who is now attending the high school at Leipsic; Byron; Leroy; Clyde; Lloyd; Burl and Irvn. Francis took part in the corn contest in the fall of 1914, and raised one hundred and twelve bushels to the acre and fifty-six pounds to the bushel. One hundred pounds of this corn was shelled and produced eighty-four pounds of shelled corn and only sixteen pounds of cobs.

a remarkable record. As a reward, he was given a trip to Washington, D. C. He stood highest in Liberty, Van Buren and Blanchard townships.

Henry Ward is a leading member of the Odd Fellow lodge and is also one of the leading citizens of Liberty township and Putnam county, a man who is highly respected where he resides.

JACOB FREDERICK MOEHRING.

When Jacob Frederick Moehring came to Putnam county, Ohio, with his wife, in 1868, he had no money to invest in land and started in to work for seventy-five cents a day, and within a couple of years he was able to buy a farm of forty acres and it was indeed a desolate looking place. Ponds alternated with knolls of dry land, and old stumps had floated down and scattered themselves promiscuously over the farm. Under such conditions, Mr. Moehring began farming for himself, and as the years went by, he had the satisfaction of seeing his farm under cultivation. Since 1870, he has doubled his acreage and this same swampy land on which he located forty-five years ago, is now worth at least two hundred dollars an acre. The story of the reclamation of this swampy farm from its primitive condition to one of the most productive farms of the county, covers the active period of Mr. Moehring's life.

Jacob Frederick Moehring, the son of Christopher and Mary (Wolffinger) Moehring, was born in 1840, in Fairfield county, Ohio. Both of his parents were born in Germany, his father coming to America when a young man and locating in Fairfield county, Ohio. In that county he married and spent the remainder of his life on a farm.

Jacob F. Moehring was reared on his father's farm in Fairfield county and received the limited education which was provided by the district schools of his home township. He remained at home until his marriage in 1862, and then spent the first two years of his married life in Fairfield county, when he came to Putnam county and located in Liberty township, where he worked on a farm by the day for the first two years. He saved his money and was able to make a payment on a forty-acre tract of land which cost him forty dollars an acre. He gradually brought this under cultivation and, a few years later, bought another forty acres, paying fifty dollars an acre for his second purchase. Each succeeding year has found him more prosperous and his farm more productive. Every improvement which is now on the farm

has been placed there by him and today there is not a better farm in the township. Good management and ceaseless industry have been the keynotes to his success while thriftiness has enabled him to prosper to an unusual degree. For nearly fifty years he and his good wife have labored together, shared each other's trials and sorrows and lived such a life as has endeared them to everyone with whom they have come in contact.

Jacob F. Moehring was married on January 28, 1856, to Mrs. Rebecca L. (Miller) Miller. She was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, near Lancaster, and is a daughter of John C. and Rebecca (Ridenour) Miller. Her father came from Germany when he was three years of age with his parents and located in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he lived the remainder of his life.

Mrs. Jacob F. Moehring had one son by her first marriage, Harvey, who now lives in Liepsic. He married first Ada Foltz, and to this union were born three children, Myrtle, Harry and May. Myrtle is the widow of Charles White and has two children, Henry and Josephine. Harry married Myrtle Heindlein and lives on a farm near Mr. Moehring, and has one daughter, Evelyn Ireta. May, the youngest child of Harvey Miller, by his first marriage, is the wife of Judson Blakeley. After the death of his first wife Harvey Miller married Rosa Ward, and to his second marriage have been born three children, Oliver, Roy and Refina McCleta.

Jacob F. Moehring and his family are loyal members of the Lutheran church. They have traveled life's pathway side by side for nearly half a century, and are one of the most highly-respected couples in the township, where they have made their home so many years.

JOHN HERMAN MEYER.

The best history of a community or state is that which deals most with the lives and activities of its people, especially of those who, by their own endeavors and indomitable energy, have forged to the front and placed themselves where they deserve the title of progressive men. In this brief review will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life, and achieved a career of marked success in agricultural affairs, and a name which all men who know him, delight to honor, because of his upright life and his habits of thrift and industry.

John Herman Meyer was born on April 7, 1866, a short distance southwest of Ottawa, near where he now lives. He is a son of George B. and Anna Mary (Moening) Meyer, who are referred to elsewhere in this volume.

John Herman Meyer was reared on the home farm, attending the district schools of his home township, remaining on the farm assisting his father until his marriage, which took place in 1890, when he was united to Elizabeth Gertrude Kleman. She was born in the north part of Pleasant township, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary Gertrude (Kottenbrock) Kleman, born in Putnam county, of German parents who came here about 1835.

Mrs. Meyer was reared south of Ottawa, in Pleasant township, coming to Glandorf, at the age of thirteen, with her parents. Henry Kleman made his home on a farm in Pleasant township, after his marriage, and lived there the remainder of his life. He was killed by lightning when Mrs. Meyer was only three months old. Her mother afterwards married Anton Unverferth, in 1880, and they made their home in Greensburg township. By her first marriage, Mrs. Meyer's mother had eight children, of whom six are still living. No children were born to the second marriage. The six children now living, who were born to her first marriage, are John, Henry, George, Ben, Anna, now Mrs. Unverferth, and Mrs. Elizabeth Meyer. The mother of these children died in Greensburg township in 1890.

After Mr. Meyer's marriage, he continued farming on land near the old home place, on what is known as the old Ellerbrock farm, and here has lived ever since. His father purchased the place when John H. Meyer was six years old. At that time the old house has been moved off and the old barn was practically worthless. Herman Meyer tore it down and has erected a nice, large and modern house, and has also put up a commodious barn. The latter was erected in 1894, and he has other numerous outbuildings in a good state of repair. Like his two brothers, Mr. Meyer has owned and operated a thrashing machine outfit for many years, his father before him having also conducted the same business. All the members of the family are interested in machinery. Mr. Meyer is well-known in Putnam county. He has a good farm of ninety-nine acres, and is a thrifty and enterprising farmer.

John H. and Elizabeth Gertrude (Kleman) Meyer are the parents of nine children, three of whom are deceased. Charles C., who married Margaret Koerner, lives in the house next to his father, and has one son, Urban, while Emma, Philomena, Loretta, Lucy and Marcella are living at home with their parents. The three deceased children are Anna, Herman and Edward.

John H. Meyer and family are all devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and he of the St. John's Society. The Meyer family is not only well known, but highly respected in Ottawa township, where they have lived for so many years.

JOHN MILTON SMITH.

One of the successful farmers of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, is John Milton Smith, who was born on December 27, 1852, in Pleasant township, the son of William and Barbara (McLaughlin) Smith.

William Smith was born and reared in Licking county, Ohio, and there married. He came to Putnam county, about 1846, and located in Pleasant township where he entered government land and made his permanent home. Later, he bought more land. His wife died, leaving one daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Mack of Leipsic.

After the death of his wife, William Smith went back to Licking county and was there a few years when he married Barbara McLaughlin, a native of Licking county. He returned to his old pioneer home in Pleasant township and lived there until 1866, when he moved to Liberty township and located in the northeast quarter of section 27, where he bought one hundred and twenty acres and farmed it the remainder of his life. He took an active interest in public affairs and died in 1880, at the age of fifty-seven. His wife died in 1893.

There were six children born to this second union, Charles, John, Martha, Lawrence, Elmer and Laura.

John Milton Smith was married in 1881 to Mary E. Henry. She was born on the farm where she now lives, in the southeast quarter of section 3, Liberty township, the daughter of John and Rebecca (Knop) Henry. Her father was born in Pennsylvania and came to Putnam county when a boy with his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth Henry, who located first in Wyandot county, during the Civil War, and afterward in Putnam county in Liberty township. Rebecca Knop was the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Knop, who came from Pennsylvania, settling in Liberty township.

John Henry farmed in Liberty township all of his life. He died in 1887, and Mrs. Henry died during the early seventies, while Mrs. Smith was a little child.

When Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married, he began farming for himself on the farm where he now lives, in Liberty township, and has farmed there ever since. He is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of land consisting of two well-improved farms with good houses, barns and fences.

John Milton and Mary E. (Henry) Smith are the parents of three children living and one dead, Mark W., Clyde H., Clarence and Everett. Mark W. married Gertha White and is farming on one of his father's farms. They have three children, Marie, Dale and Forest; Clyde H. married Eva

Miller and lives on his own farm near Prentiss. They have two children, Domer and Ray; Clarence died at the age of seventeen, and Everett is unmarried and at home.

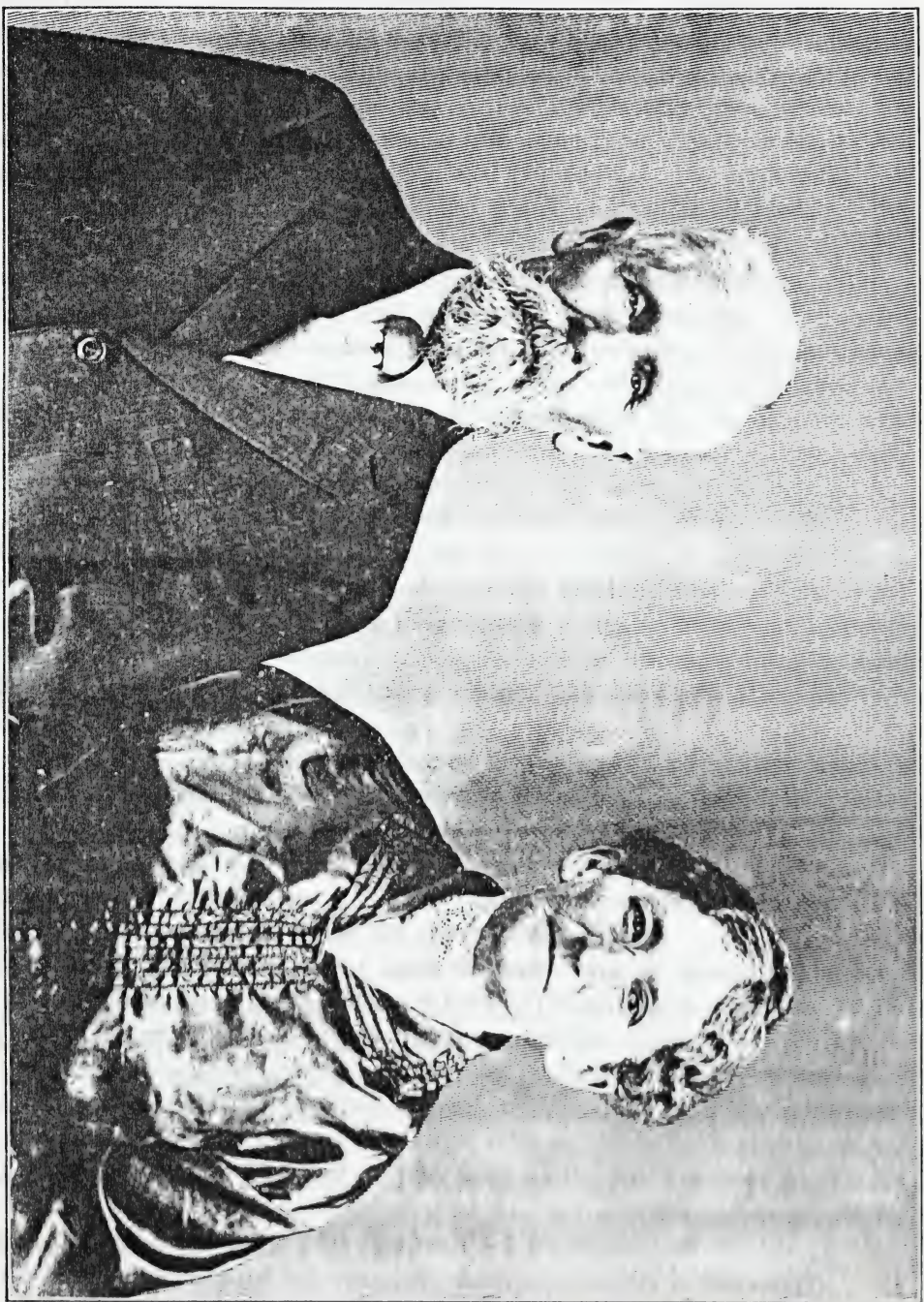
During the last ten years, Mr. Smith has been a member of the school board and is also a trustee of Liberty township. He has given entire satisfaction in performing the duties of these offices. He is a member of the Republican party. Mr. Smith and his wife are members of the Evangelical church, earnest and active in their religious life. Mr. Smith is a progressive man of excellent standing in the community. He is quiet and unpretentious but, nevertheless, one of the substantial citizens of Liberty township.

JOHN F. SHAFER.

The best title one can establish to the high and generous esteem of an intelligent community, is a protracted and honorable residence therein. John F. Shafer has resided in this locality all his life, having been born in Perry township, on the Layton farm, known as the Wilcox farm at that time, on June 4, 1846. His career has been a commendable one and well deserving of being perpetuated on the pages of a historical work of the nature of the one in hand. Knowing that the county was destined to take a high rank in the productive and rich locality of the North, Mr. Shafer applied himself very closely to his work and waited for the future to bring its reward, and today he is numbered among the substantial men of the county.

John F. Shafer is a son of John and Susan (Dickey) Shafer, the former of whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, but who removed to Allen county, where he farmed for a number of years. Here he was married, and subsequently moved to Putnam county, to what is known as the Layton farm. When John F. Shafer was about two years old his father moved to Paulding county, and here John F. Shafer grew up and was educated. His father died in Paulding county, and John F. returned to Putnam county, and was married here at the age of twenty-seven years.

John F. Shafer was married in 1873 to Ruth Varner, the daughter of Jacob and Eliza (Guyten) Varner, who was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county. After his marriage Mr. Shafer rented a farm in Perry township of his father, and here he lived for seven years. At the end of this time he removed to his present farm of one hundred and sixty-eight acres, where he now lives. He first located on this farm in 1881, and has since added to it until he is now the owner of three hundred and twenty-two acres.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN F. SLATER.



THE CONFERENCE ON THE OILS



Just after attaining his majority Mr. Shafer worked out by the month for a short time. He also spent three months in the West, but did not like that country and returned to Putnam county, where he has since been engaged in general farming and stock raising. The second money he ever earned he invested in Shorthorn cattle, and for the past forty-seven years has made a specialty of this kind of live stock, and has met with commendable success in this line. He has always made it a rule to breed only thoroughbreds. He keeps very fine horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, and raises all kinds of live stock in considerable number. All of the forage produced on Mr. Shafer's land is fed to his stock. He ships his products throughout the entire country, but the greater part of it has been sold in the nearby markets. Mr. Shafer has made all of the improvements upon his land, including house and barns, with the exception of an old house on the farm, which was there when Mr. Shafer acquired it. The land was mostly cleared when Mr. Shafer purchased it, but he has added ditches and fences and improved it in many ways, making it one of the finest and most productive in this section of the county.

John F. and Ruth (Varner) Shafer are the parents of five children, the first-born dying in infancy. The others are as follow: Mrs. Carrie Simon, of Greensburg township, is the mother of six children, Paul, Helen, Mary, George, Margery and Ruth Anna; Maud, now living at home, was formerly engaged in the teaching profession; Ralph, living on the home farm, married Blanche Simons, and they have two children, Geraldine and Howard; Dot, who died at the age of fourteen years.

John F. Shafer is not a member of any lodge. He is a Republican in politics, and served his fellow citizens for three years as township trustee; has also served as a member of the school board for sixteen years, although not active at the present time. For two years he was ditch supervisor, but is no longer active in this work. Mrs. Shafer is a member of the Mt. Zion United Brethren church, as are the rest of the family.

John F. Shafer was one of eight children, three of whom, besides himself, are still living: Jacob, a farmer living in Paulding county, Ohio; William, of Dupont, Ohio, and Jefferson, also a resident of Paulding county.

John F. Shafer is a congenial man and feels proud of his success, as a result of his careful planning and frugal saving. He began life with absolutely nothing, and now has a fine farm, with comfortable, well-painted and adequate buildings, a fine herd of Shorthorn cattle and other live stock. He is a good judge of cattle and other stock and his advice is often sought by people of his community. He has been a hard worker all his life, and his wife has been a faithful helpmate and aided him greatly in his success.

ALBERT H. THRAILKILL.

Among the business men of Putnam county, Ohio, who have achieved no small measure of success in a personal way and whose relations with the public are founded upon cordial and honorable personal relations, is Albert H. Thrailkill, the general manager of the Leipsic Lumber & Coal Company, of Leipsic, Ohio. He is a man, who, at the present time, is in the prime of life, and who has before him many-active years. His past accomplishments are to be accepted as a criterion of his future achievements. Few men will have accomplished more, when the time comes to give up the active cares of business, than the subject of this sketch. He has had a wide and varied experience in various enterprises, and these experiences have furnished a splendid equipment for the efficient management of the firm of which he is now the executive head. Mr. Thrailkill well deserves the confidence of the public and the patrons of his firm, since his conduct has ever been above reproach, thoroughly upright and honorable, judged by any standard.

Albert H. Thrailkill, son of Richard H. and Samantha (Mitchell) Thrailkill, was born in Monroe township, Putnam county, Ohio, January 1, 1874. The father was born at Westminster, Allen county, Ohio, and was the son of Elias Thrailkill and wife. Richard H. Thrailkill was a valiant soldier in the Civil War, having served in Company E., Fourteenth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and having enlisted before he reached his majority. He had grown to manhood and had been educated in Westminster, Allen county. Having enlisted as a private soldier at Defiance, Ohio, he served a year and a half, and during this period was wounded at Jonesboro, Georgia, and confined in a hospital for some time. When well enough, he was sent home on a furlough and, after being home three months, he joined his regiment and served until the close of the war, being attached to Sherman's army during its memorable march from Atlanta to the sea. Receiving his discharge in May, 1865, at Columbus, Ohio, he returned to Defiance, Ohio, to which the family had moved from Westminster, Allen county, when Richard H. was fifteen years old. After spending some time at Defiance, he moved to a farm in Fayette county, and being there six years, he returned to Defiance, Ohio, and was married to Samantha Mitchell, daughter of John and Jane (Nifer) Mitchell, who bore him two children, Albert H. and Frederick H., the latter of whom is now located at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is a bookkeeper and collector for the Continental Oil and Well Supply Company, of that place. After his marriage, the father of these children removed from Defiance to Monroe township, Putnam county, and rented eighty acres of

land which Benjamin Fifer, his wife's grandfather, had purchased from the government. After farming here for some two years, he removed to Gilboa, and there worked at the painter's trade. From Gilboa he removed to Columbus Grove, where he worked at his trade for twelve years; after this he worked at his trade for seventeen years at Ottawa, and finally moved to Findlay, Ohio, where he passed away, October 22, 1914, at the age of sixty-six years. Mrs. Samantha (Mitchell) Thrailkill, who was born in Allen county, Ohio, in 1854, and who, during her life, was a companionable wife and loving mother and wise helpmate, passed away, October 9, 1913, at Findlay, Ohio, a year before her husband. Richard H. Thrailkill, although he was not an office-holder, was an active Republican throughout life, and was a member of the Church of God, at Findlay, Ohio, and a devout, earnest and God-fearing man. His wife was a member of the same church.

The paternal grandparents of Albert H. Thrailkill, having been born in Pennsylvania, migrated to Ohio, and settled in Allen county during pioneer times. When they arrived in Allen county, the city of Lima was not as large as Westminster at the present time. Both lived and died in Allen county. Their children were Mrs. Sarah Jane Bell, deceased; Richard H., deceased; Eliza, of Williams county, Ohio; Mrs. Isabelle Giltz, and one who died in infancy. By occupation, Mr. Thrailkill's grandfather was a farmer. His great uncle, a brother of his paternal grandfather and one for whom his father was named, operated the famous old mill at Westminster, and having been ordained as a minister in the Methodist Protestant church, was actively engaged in this profession until some twelve years before his death. The church at Gilboa was one of those on the circuit where he preached. He had come from Westminster, Allen county, to Gilboa, Putnam county. He was a man of charitable impulses and highly respected as well as widely and favorably known. About twelve years before his death, he had removed to Jersey City, in Wood county, and here he lived retired.

Albert H. Thrailkill's maternal ancestors came from Virginia. John Mitchell and Jane (Fifer) Mitchell, his maternal grandparents, were natives of Rockingham county. The great-grandfather, Benjamin Fifer, was a native of Rockingham county, Virginia. The maternal grandfather, Benjamin Fifer, moved from Virginia to Illinois, and from Illinois to Fayette county, Ohio, and from Fayette county to Putnam county, Ohio, finally settling in Monroe township, where he was a farmer and cattle buyer. In Monroe township, Putnam county, he owned eighty acres of land, and was engaged actively as a farmer until his death, about 1872. He improved, cleared and drained this land. They had a family of six children.

Albert H. Thrailkill was only four years old when his parents left their farm in Monroe township, and removed to Columbus Grove. Receiving a good common and high school education in the schools of Columbus Grove, and, growing to manhood in this city, he remained at home until his marriage, before which, however, he had learned the painter's trade, and had followed it in Ottawa, Ohio. Working as a clerk for some time in Ottawa, he was subsequently, employed as yard clerk for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and the Ft. Wayne & Western railroad, at Ottawa, and held this position during a period of four years. Taking charge of the Putnam County Telephone Company, at Ottawa, as manager, one year after his marriage, and immediately after he quit railroad work, Mr. Thrailkill lived in Ottawa, from August 12, 1897, to 1900, resigning this position, he was transferred on August 12, 1900, to the managership of the Leipsic Telephone Company and remained until June 1, 1911, after he spent four months in railroad office work at Leipsic Junction, and then resigned to become manager of the elevator at Miller City, Ohio, owned by J. O. Cruikshank, after which he was transferred to the elevator at McComb, also owned by Mr. Cruikshank. From December, 1911, until September, 1912, he was in the elevator business at Miller City and McComb. He then resigned and moved back to Leipsic, where he became general manager of the Leipsic Lumber and Coal Company. This firm has a large trade in Putnam county in lumber, coal, lime and building materials of all kinds, and its growth and prosperity, during the last two or three years, are no doubt due, in considerable measure, to the efficient management of Mr. Thrailkill.

Albert H. Thrailkill was married, June 16, 1895, to Oread Sprague, who was born on December 6, 1873, in Columbus Grove, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Charles and Mary Jane (Slemmons) Sprague, the former of whom was a native of Putnam county, a druggist at Columbus Grove and who died there in 1876, when Mrs. Thrailkill was three years old. He had been a partner with J. M. Crawford and they had operated a drug store under the name of Crawford & Sprague. Mrs. Thrailkill's mother was born at Kalida. She is now deceased. Mrs. Thrailkill is the only child born to her parents. After having graduated from the high school, at Columbus Grove, she taught several terms of school in Pleasant township, also in the grade school at Leipsic. Albert H. and Oread (Sprague) Thrailkill have two children, Naola, born on June 16, 1904, and Margaret E., May 15, 1906. Naola passed away on April 23, 1905. Margaret attends Leipsic high school.

Although not a member of any lodge, Mr. Thrailkill is an active Republican, and has served six terms as councilman at Leipsic. Both Albert H.

Thrailkill and wife are stanch and active members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Leipsic, and Mrs. Thrailkill is an active class and missionary worker in the church.

During his entire life, Albert H. Thrailkill's happy personal qualities have made him a popular citizen. His industry, enterprise and progressive spirit have been an influence for good in the various communities where he has lived. He is a worthy descendant of ancestors who were pioneers in this section of our great nation and who helped to lay the foundation of this thriving and prosperous citizenship.

JOHN H. WHITE.

Among the substantial farmers of Liberty township, this county, there are few who are better known or who have a higher reputation for public spirit than John W. White, who, for many years, has been counted among the leading men of his section of the county. He has done well his part in life and it is but proper that he should be given fitting mention in this volume of biography relating to the men and families of prominence in Putnam county.

John W. White was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, on August 11, 1854, the son of Robert and Nancy (Neely) White, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. The Whites moved from Pennsylvania to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1855, and located in the town of Leipsic. Robert White bought a farm north of West Leipsic, but instead of living on this farm, rented for a time, continuing to make his home in Leipsic, but later moved onto his farm, where he made his home until the encroachments of age warned him to retire from the active life on the farm. He moved back to his home in Leipsic, in 1877, and there he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1882. His widow is still living, at a ripe old age, in Leipsic.

John W. White received his early education in the schools of Leipsic, which he supplemented with a course of three terms spent at the normal school in Ottawa, and at the age of nineteen began teaching school. For four years he served as a teacher in the schools of Liberty township, after which he decided to take up farming as his life's vocation and, for a year before his marriage, in 1879, farmed on rented land in that township. In January, 1884, Mr. White bought a farm of eighty acres, one mile west of Prentiss, in section 10, of Liberty township, and moved there the second

year afterward. Here he resided, until 1893, when he moved to the Denhard farm, three miles east of his home and two miles north of Leipsic, where he lived for three years. He moved back to his home place, west of Prentiss, in 1896, where he has lived ever since. He bought forty acres in the southeast quarter of section 14, of Liberty township, and later sold it and bought fifty-eight acres on the Ridge road, three miles northwest of Leipsic, which piece he sold in 1914. He also bought forty acres, known as the Egbert farm, across the road from his home and later bought thirty-five acres, known as the Leatherman farm, just east of the Egbert farm. Since then, he bought twenty-five acres of what was known as the old Auseon farm, just east of the Leatherman tract, making one hundred and seventy-nine acres in his present home tract. After selling the farm on the Ridge road, in November, 1914, he bought the old Heck farm of ninety acres about a mile northwest of Leipsic. All of this land now is in an excellent state of cultivation and Mr. White is widely known as a good farmer and prudent manager.

John H. White was united in marriage, in 1879, to Emma Jane Lenhart, who was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, the daughter of Henry and Adaline (Bracht) Lenhart. Henry, a brother of former county treasurer William S. Lenhart, of Ottawa, was a son of Jacob and Lydia (Sprinkle) Lenhart, both of whom were natives of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, Jacob Lenhart having been for many years a minister of the River Brethren church, to which service he devoted the best energies of his life. His house was used as a place of worship, and services were held there every alternate week for years, while he resided in Mahoning county, and later his place served the same purpose in the counties of Hancock and Putnam. Jacob Lenhart had a large family, consisting of sixteen children, two of whom died in infancy, the others growing to maturity and making useful citizens in their respective places of residence. Henry Lenhart had a twin brother, David C. Lenhart, the father of Harrison Lenhart. Mrs. White is a sister of Mrs. Edwards, widow of the lamented John Edwards, who for many years was one of the towering figures in the financial and industrial life of Putnam county, a biography of whom is presented elsewhere in this volume.

To John H. and Emma Jane (Lenhart) White were born eleven children, all of whom are living, as follow: Gertha May, married Mary Smith, a well-known farmer of Liberty township, and has three children, Marie, Dale and Forest; Lulu, married Jesse Roberts, also of Liberty township, and has two children, Kenneth and Mabel; Bessie, married Clarence Kratzer, living on the Ridge road three miles west of Leipsic, and has one child, a

daughter, Roberta; Velma, married Ernest Kratzer, living two miles west of Leipsic, and has one child, Vivian, living and two dead; Amzi, attending school at Defiance, Ohio; Henry, teaching school in Liberty township, this county; Flossie; Verda; Mabel; Dee and Russell, at home.

John H. White and wife are members of the Lutheran church and are active participants in the various beneficences of that congregation in their neighborhood. They formerly were members of the United Presbyterian church, to which they remained attached as long as there was a church of that denomination within reach. Mr. White is a Republican and takes a proper degree of interest in the politics of the county, being particularly interested in all matters relating to the government of his home township. He gives close attention to the educational interests of his home township and for ten years or more has been a member of the school board, in which capacity his service has been of large value to the schools of Liberty township. He and his family are regarded as among the leaders in their community and are deservedly popular throughout that section of the county.

JOHN B. SCHEY.

In the laborious struggle for an honorable competence and a substantial career on the part of the average farmer, there is little to attract the casual reader in search of a sensational chapter, but to a mind thoroughly awake to the reality and meaning of human existence, there are noble and imperishable lessons in the career of an individual, who, with no other means than a clear head, strong arm and true heart, directed and controlled by correct principles and unerring judgment, conquers adversity and toiling, wins not only pecuniary independence, but what is far greater and higher, the merited respect and confidence of those with whom his active years have brought him in contact. Such a man is John B. Schey, of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, a successful farmer and a well-known citizen of this section.

John B. Schey was born on November 20, 1865, in Franklin county, near Grove City, Ohio, the son of Philip and Catherine (Bouch) Schey, whose life histories are found on another page of this volume. Mr. Schey is also a brother of Peter Schey.

When the Schey family moved to Putnam county in 1868, John B. Schey was only three years old but, nevertheless, he has a vivid memory of their arrival at the log cabin where they were to live for a number of years.

John B. Schey grew up on this farm and saw it cleared and drained and made a profitable and productive property. He recalls also the huge swarms of mosquitoes from the surrounding swamps and the vexations suffered by the people who lived in their vicinity before the swamps were drained.

John B. Schey bought the farm where he now lives in section 3, of Liberty township in 1896, which comprises one hundred and twenty acres. When Mr. Schey purchased the farm it was an old dilapidated-looking place that had been deserted for some time. Mr. Schey cleaned up the house and put in doors and windows and lived in it for about fourteen years. He built the present handsome dwelling in 1908 and has also put up various out-buildings in the meantime, as well as fenced and drained the land. He has one of the finest farms in Liberty township. His land was among the first settled in this part of the county, and up to that time the old house had been used by cattle and sheep for shelter. When he purchased the land, the fireplace in the old house had fallen in, and the soil was worn out and blue. Mr. Schey went to work to improve the place and for years toiled to this end.

John B. Schey was married, in 1892, to Mollie Gintner, who died two years and six months after their marriage. She was the mother of one daughter who died about two months before the death of Mrs. Schey. During this period, Mr. Schey was farming the old home place, but about a year after his marriage, purchased forty acres in the southwest quarter of section 4, of Liberty township. This farm was mostly cleared and he lived here until he purchased his present farm, in 1896. Mr. Schey was married a second time, in 1895, to Emma K. Feight, who was born at New Bedford, Coshocton county, Ohio, along the line of Holmes county. She is the daughter of William and Margaret (Laudenschlager) Feight, the former a native of Pennsylvania and a life-long farmer. Mrs. Schey's mother was a native of Coshocton county and is the daughter of Frederick and Catherine Laudenschlager, who came from Germany in their youth, but who were married in America and early settlers in Coshocton county. Mrs. Schey was about five years old when her parents moved to Elm Center, Liberty township, Putnam county, where they lived until about 1903, when they moved to Townwood, in Van Buren township. They lived here until 1912, when they moved to Tecumseh, Michigan. Mrs. Schey was living at Elm Center when she was married.

To John B. and Emma K. (Feight) Schey ten children have been born, one dying in infancy and two dying when a little more than a year old. The living children are Rollin, Arthur, Dorothy, Clyde, Carrie, Victor and Gladys. Another member of the family circle was Eva Crone, who was born west of

Glandorf and who had lived with Mr. and Mrs. Schey since she was eight years old, and until her marriage, March 22, 1915, to Victor J. Feight. She is considered as one of the family.

John B. Schey is a member of the Grange at Leipsic and he and his family belong to the Lutheran church. Mr. Schey and family are highly respected citizens of Liberty township, where he has gained an enviable reputation for honesty, progressive spirit and enterprise in his vocation. He is a man who, in every respect, merits the esteem of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

HENRY W. LITTLE.

Indefatigable industry, sound judgment and wise management have been the elements that have contributed to the success achieved by Henry W. Little, for many years an enterprising and progressive farmer of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who is now the county commissioner-elect of Putnam county. His farming lands have always been well improved and highly productive, and he is numbered among the best farmers of Palmer township. Because of his high character and unquestioned integrity, he enjoys, to a marked degree, the highest respect of the community. Mr. Little has not only been a successful farmer, he has erected buildings upon his land, improved the soil by careful cultivation and drainage and now has a splendid farm, excellently situated.

Henry W. Little is the son of Robert and Anna (Noriot) Little, and was born on December 19, 1871, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Robert Little was the son of Robert Little and wife, who was born in Crawford county, Ohio, and who moved to Putnam county, Ohio, about 1860. They were farmers and pioneers in Palmer township where they settled. They had the following children, Robert, the father of Henry W.; Marshall, Margaret, Isabella and Anna. They farmed for a time in Palmer township, and later, moved to North Creek, where they died.

Mrs. Anna (Noriot) Little was the daughter of Francis and Francois (Raclot) Noriot, natives of Boncourt, France, and who were married in 1823, in Boncourt. They came to America on October 27, 1853, and landed at Findlay, Ohio, December 8, 1853. Francis Noriot and wife settled in Hancock county on a property, where they farmed for a time. Subsequently, they came to Putnam county, Ohio, where they lived, and later returned to Henry county, where he died on September 26, 1866. He was the mayor of

Boncourt, France, at one time. His wife, Francois, was born in December, 1800, and died on February 28, 1898. They had the following children, Francis, deceased; Claude; Anna, the mother of Henry W. Little; Lawrence, deceased; Mary; Celestian; John, deceased; Velaria, and Magdalena, who died in France. Mrs. Anna Little was born in the village of Boncourt, France, and came to America with her parents at the age of twelve years. They settled in Hancock county, Ohio, where she grew up. Later, she came with her parents to Putnam county and also to New Bavaria, Henry county.

Robert Little, the father of Henry W., was educated in Crawford county, Ohio, and lived on his father's farm during his early years. Later, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, where he purchased eighty acres in Palmer township. Here he was married to Anna Noriot. After their marriage, they continued to reside on the farm in Palmer township. He later moved to North Creek, Palmer township, where he retired and died on September 1, 1908. His wife died at North Creek, Palmer township, in 1909. Robert and Anna Little had seven children, Alexander, deceased; Mrs. Elizabeth Gump; Nicholas, deceased; Joseph, who lives in Palmer township; Mrs. Mary Lefever, deceased; Henry, the subject of this sketch; and Robert, who lives near Miller City, Ohio.

Henry W. Little was educated in Palmer township and lived there, during his early life, on his father's farm. He lived there, in fact, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he was married.

Henry W. Little was married on May 18, 1892, to Mary Burkhart, the daughter of John and Gertrude Burkhart, who were farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county. Both died in Palmer township. They had a family of twelve children, of whom William, Henry, Christ, Katherine and Mary are now living.

After his marriage, Henry W. Little continued to live on his father's farm for six months and then moved to a small farm, which he purchased, in Palmer township. He lived here for about four months and then moved to his father-in-law's farm, where he spent ten years. He purchased forty acres in section 14, of Palmer township, and later sold it, buying his present farm which originally consisted of thirty acres and which was inherited by his wife. Subsequently, he has increased the same to one hundred and forty acres. It is located in sections 12 and 1, of Palmer township. Mr. Little has built all of the present buildings. He has improved the farm and erected many rods of fences. The land, however, was cleared when he moved to it. He has a fine farm and excellent soil, which is one of the best in the township.

To Henry W. and Mary (Burkhart) Little, six children have been born,

Grace, Gordon, Bertha, Jessie, Elwood and Pauline, all of whom are at home. Grace married Gilbert Hoffman, of Palmer township, and has one son, Harold. All of the children have been educated in the township schools and Bertha continued her education in the high school at Miller City.

Henry W. Little is not a member of any lodges. Throughout his life, he has been an active Democrat and served as township clerk for two terms and also as township assessor for two terms. On August 11, 1914, Mr. Little was elected as a member of the board of county commissioners of Putnam county.

Henry W. Little's fine farm shows his keen professional spirit. He has always been a hard worker, but, nevertheless, is a congenial man and well liked by his neighbors and the people of Putnam county. Mrs. Little is keenly interested in poultry and has come to be well known as a poultry fancier. She has a fine lot of over two hundred and fifty white Leghorn chickens. The Littles are well known in this section of the county and merit the confidence and esteem in which they are held by their fellow citizens and neighbors.

BOSTWICK F. BURGESS.

The present generation of readers in Putnam county needs no introduction to Bostwick F. Burgess, former sheriff of this county, but in making up history the compiler is actuated by a sense of duty to future generations; hence, no history of Putnam county would be complete without proper mention of the life and services of this former official of the county.

Bostwick F. Burgess was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, on February 18, 1846, the son of Archibald and Agnes (Brownlee) Burgess. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, born about the year 1803, and met a tragic death in this county in June, 1869, having been crushed to death by a train of cars near the town of Columbus Grove, Ohio. His mother was a native of Scotland and was born in the year 1811 and died on November 5, 1858.

To Archibald and Agnes (Brownlee) Burgess were born the following children, James W., Alexander, Elizabeth, Robert, Andrew J., Bostwick F., William C., Charles, Mary, Letitia, John and Agnes. Upon the death of his first wife, Archibald Burgess married Mrs. Martha Davis, to which union were born two children, Dora and Ellen. Archibald Burgess came to Putnam county at an early day and purchased from the government two hundred

acres of land in Pleasant township, the greater part of which he cleared and to which he made additions at various times until he was one of the largest owners of real estate in his part of the county. He was a man of great industry and in addition to his extensive farming operations was locally noted as a breeder of fine stock, especially sheep.

Bostwick F. Burgess was reared a farmer, receiving his education in the schools of Pleasant township where he remained under the parental roof until the year 1864. In February of that year he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until mustered out at Columbus, Ohio, in July, 1865. During his period of service, Mr. Burgess participated in a number of the bloodiest battles of the war, including Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, Jonesboro, and other engagements of the Atlanta campaign, he having been with Sherman in the celebrated march to the sea. On December 16, 1864, while on a foraging expedition about four miles from Savannah, he was captured by the enemy and held a prisoner of war at Florence and Andersonville, until his release on February 26, 1865. At the time of his capture, Mr. Burgess weighed one hundred and ninety-six pounds, but such was the treatment he received, while in the southern military prisons, that his weight at the time of his release had diminished to less than ninety pounds.

Following his discharge from the service of his country, Mr. Burgess returned to Putnam county and remained with his father on the farm in Pleasant township, until his marriage, in September, 1866, when he began farming for himself and in due time gained possession of a farm of one hundred and seventy acres of finely-improved land in Pleasant township. He remained on this farm for a period of twenty-six years, or until his election to the office of sheriff, in 1894, at which time he moved to the city of Ottawa, where he remained a couple of years following the expiration of his second term of office in 1898, returning to the farm in 1900. He, meanwhile, had added to his original home farm by the presence of an adjoining tract and now owns two hundred and forty-four acres in sections 15 and 22, in Pleasant township, all of which is under a high state of cultivation. Following his retirement to the farm, Mr. Burgess remained there for four years, after which he returned to Ottawa and has lived in the county seat ever since, being very comfortably situated in his modern home at the north-east corner of the public square.

During his two terms of office, sheriff Burgess created a record of service in that office. It was during this time that the hard times of 1894 to 1898 precipitated the foreclosure of several mortgages in Putnam county,

entailing upon the sheriff a most disagreeable duty. It was said, by competent authority, that during this period the sheriff was compelled to act in more foreclosure actions than had been brought during the whole term of sixteen preceding sheriffs. It also fell to his lot to take three of Putnam county's convicted officials to the state's prison at Columbus. Mr. Burgess's official activity has not been confined to the shrievalty, he having served for seventeen years as a member of the school board of Pleasant township and for six years as a member of the city council at Ottawa, in which latter capacity he had much to do with public improvements in the county seat.

On September 6, 1866, Bostwick F. Burgess was united in marriage to Rebecca Norton, a well-known teacher of Putnam county, and to this union were born six children, two of whom, Zella L. and Margaret A., are deceased. Of the survivors, Eva A. married George Gettman, a prosperous farmer of Pleasant township, and has three children, all sons, Clifford, Loyd and George, the former of whom married Grace Teegarden, of Columbus Grove; Cora, who married O. L. Smith, lives at Leipsic, where Mr. Smith is engaged in business as a street building contractor, building stone roads and paved streets. During sheriff Burgess's incumbency, Mr. Smith served as deputy sheriff. He and Mrs. Smith have three sons, Gordon, Raymond and Fred; Francis N., the only son, who lives at Delphos, Ohio, married Ethel Heasley, daughter of Solomon Heasley and wife, and has two sons, Alva and Donald; Zoa, the youngest daughter, who is an accomplished musician, married J. F. Kline, a druggist, and lives at Spencerville, Ohio. The mother of these children died on March 7, 1914, and was widely mourned throughout the county, where she was held in the very highest regard by all. She was a member of the Methodist church and lived her goodness every day, always thinking of the welfare of others, always happiest when making others happy. She was a kind neighbor and friend of all, a faithful wife and loving mother. She was a member of the Pythian Sisters, in which lodge she was highly esteemed.

The parents of Mrs. Burgess were John and Elizabeth (McDole) Norton, natives, respectively, of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. The Nortons were an old New England family and the grandfather of Mrs. Burgess came to Putnam county as early as 1832, entering a tract of government land in section 13 of Pleasant township. This was the family home for many years and there Joel Norton, the grandfather died, and it was on the same farm that John Norton departed this life in May, 1866. Mrs. John Norton's parents were natives of Ireland and came to this country, following their marriage. Mrs. Norton died at her home, in Putnam county, in the year 1850,

at the age of thirty-eight. To John and Elizabeth (McDole) Norton were born six children, as follow: Melissa J., wife of J. W. Fuller; Elizabeth, deceased; Rebecca A., the late Mrs. Burgess; Rosetta and Violette, twins, the former of whom is the wife of George I. Best, of Columbus Grove, and the latter the wife of John Core, also of Columbus Grove; Margaret is the wife of David T. McCullough, of Gilboa. John Norton married, secondly, Elizabeth Frost, to which union were born five children, Sarah, Joel, John W., Hiram and an infant daughter, all of whom are now deceased.

Few men in Putnam county have as wide an acquaintance as former Sheriff Burgess and his genial ways, kindness of heart and substantial manhood have endeared him to all who know him. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic post at Ottawa and a member of the Masonic and Pythian fraternities, in the affairs of which organizations he takes an active interest. He has been a life-long Democrat and his voice is not without its weight in the councils of that party in this county. His various official positions have brought him in close touch with the public and have given him a thorough acquaintance with its needs, and he is always found in the front ranks of those who are laboring for the best interests of the commonwealth.

RUDOLPH NEWMAN.

In these days of hustle and bustle for fame and fortune among our native born sons and daughters, it is refreshing to thumb the pages in the career of a venerable citizen of Putnam county, Ohio, now living in his beautiful country home and past the age of ninety years. That Rudolph Newman, who was born nearly a century ago in a foreign land, has been able, with no other assistance than the help of a willing and faithful wife, to acquire a large fortune in farm property in his adopted country, is a tribute to his economy, his industry and his wise and prudent management. In many respects, his career resembles the pages gleaned from some old volume of romance, rather than a statement of fact in the life of a man who still lives to bear testimony of his work as a citizen in this splendid country.

Born in Mecklenburg, Germany, August 9, 1825, Rudolph Newman, a well-to-do retired farmer of Putnam county, Ohio, is now the only member living of his father's family. John and Fred, two brothers, are deceased. His father having died early in his youth, he had little chance to obtain an education, and at the age of eleven years was compelled to leave home and

work for strangers, applying his earnings to the support of an invalid and widowed mother.

Married in Mecklenburg, Germany, at six o'clock in the evening of May 28, 1855, Rudolph Newman and his young bride, who, before her marriage was Elizabeth Genkel, born in Mecklenburg, Germany, November 8, 1824, sailed at midnight for America. The voyage to America constituted the honeymoon trip of this splendid German couple, who were very poor in purse, but who came to a new country to seek fame and fortune with good health and willing hands, as well as a determination that proved invincible. Steamships were by no means common in that day and the voyage, which was made on a sailing vessel and which was extremely perilous, required a period of eight weeks. Several severe storms were encountered during the voyage. Rudolph Newman and his bride had no relatives in the new country, but they were never beset with lonesomeness, for they were fond of each other and satisfied wholly with each other's companionship.

How Rudolph Newman and his young wife struggled from year to year, saving a little of each year's earnings, constitute a most interesting story. For a long time, however, all they had in money consisted of one copper penny, which they had saved and to which they added little by little, until it grew into a splendid fortune. Eventually, they were able to pay for five hundred and sixty acres of the best farming land to be found anywhere in Putnam county. The accumulation of this vast tract of land was the direct result of their own hard toil and frugality.

Landing in New York city, in the latter part of July, 1855, Rudolph Newman came direct to Arcadia, where he was employed for one hundred dollars a year. Out of this sum he was compelled to buy food for himself and wife. For nine years he continued in the employ of this man, and from his savings was able to purchase eighty acres of land, four miles east of McComb, to which farm he moved. Finding out, subsequently, that he could handle more land, he purchased the farm where he now lives, containing a hundred and sixty acres. There is little resemblance between the farm as it appeared then and as it appears now. Today it is one of the most attractive farms in Putnam county. Then it was little more than a vast forest, covered with trees on soil that was very wet. Excellent buildings are now standing on the farm; it is well drained, well fenced and well kept in every respect.

Rudolph Newman has given to each of his children a farm, and each is, therefore, provided with a home of his or her own. The Newman family consisted originally of six children, but two of them are now deceased. John Newman lived at home, working on the home farm and caring for his par-

ents until the time of his death; Minnie died in infancy; Mary Newman lives at home and is at present caring for her aged father; Mrs. Ricca Imhoff lives near Leipsic; Mrs. Lena Shafer lives in McComb; and the other child is Mrs. Sarah Beisheim, of Bellmore. The mother of these children died, May 22, 1910, and on June 1, 1912, John Newman, the only son and brother in the family, passed away. Rudolph Newman has lived on the farm he now occupies for more than forty-three years.

In youth Rudolph Newman was baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, and remained a stanch Lutheran throughout his life. His wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Newman, during her life, was a devout member of that church. Rudolph Newman has always been a Democrat, but he has never been especially active in politics, devoting his life rather to the interests of his family and his home. It seems eminently fitting, therefore, that in his declining years he should have, as he does, the loving care and kindness of the daughter who lives with him. He has been a good citizen of this great country, and a man eminently worthy of the generation in which he has lived.

GEORGE RIDENOUR.

In the early days the Middle West was often a tempting field for the energetic, ambitious and strong-minded men. Ohio was filled with them during the time she was struggling to a respectable position in the sisterhood of states. Before Ohio was admitted to the Union in 1802, a comparatively small number of people had settled within the boundaries of this state. There was a fascination in the broad fields of great promise which this new region presented to activity of men and which induced them to brave the discomforts of early life here for the pleasure and gratification of constructing their fortunes in their own way and after their own methods. It is this class of men more than any other who give shape, direction and character to the life of any community. It is an axiom of history that it is the strong-willed and most energetic men who lead the van of the frontiersmen in any new and undeveloped country. George Ridenour, the subject of this sketch, and a farmer well known in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio, is descended from old pioneer stock, men who have had much to do with the early history of Putnam county.

George Ridenour was born on October 27, 1860, in Perry township, Putnam county, across from the Blanchard river. He is the son of Jacob



GEORGE RIDENOT AND FAMILY.



and Fanny (Fretz) Ridenour. Jacob Ridenour was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on March 2, 1815, and spent his boyhood days on the farm. He did not attend school until eighteen years of age. When the gold fever was abroad in 1851 he joined the caravan going west, and, traveling around the isthmus of Panama, finally reached California. Two years later he returned to Putnam county, where, on March 2, 1847, he had married Fanny Fretz, the daughter of John Fretz and wife, who was a Miss Shelby. Fanny Fretz was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on August 27, 1825, and came to Putnam county with her parents when she was a small child. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania of Dutch parentage and settled in Putnam county in 1835 on a tract of land which he entered from the government. Jacob Ridenour's father was John Ridenour, of Pennsylvania Dutch parentage, who came to Fairfield county in the early twenties, and in 1826 to Putnam county, where he entered several tracts of government land, or in all about four hundred acres. He built a log cabin on the Blanchard river and began carving out a home in the wilderness. He entered forty acres of land where the town of Dupont now stands, and also a tract in Paulding county, Ohio. The children of John Ridenour were Michael, Jacob, Daniel, Elinor, Mary and Priscilla. Elinor married Dewitt McGill; Mary married Hugh Scott, and Priscilla married Rev. P. B. Holden.

Jacob Ridenour divided his land among his children before his death. He died in 1888, at the age of seventy-two years. Although he had been elected township treasurer at one time, he did not serve in this office. He was a Democrat in politics, and was not a member of any church.

Jacob and Fanny (Fretz) Ridenour were the parents of ten children: William, who died in infancy on October 11, 1849; Mrs. Jane Wollam, of Wichita, Kansas; John, who died in Perry township in 1914; Albert, who died on March 9, 1899; Mrs. Mary A. Bibler, who lives in Perry township on the homestead farm; Mrs. Elizabeth Marriott, who died on January 22, 1889, in Perry township; George, the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Emma Shirley, who lives in Monroe township; Orlando, who died in February, 1889, and Clara, who died at the age of sixteen years, in 1887.

George Ridenour grew to manhood in Perry township, and, with the exception of a few visits, has never been out of the township. He left home after his marriage and removed to his present farm of two hundred and sixty acres. This farm comprises several diccerent tracts. Mr. Ridenour is a general farmer and made all of the present improvements upon his land, including the buildings. He has also cleared most of the land.

George Ridenour was married on December 1, 1887, to Rona Simon, the daughter of Louis and Margaret (Dangler) Simon. Mrs. Ridenour was born on November 14, 1864, in Greensburg township, near Cuba. To this union two children, Lewis and Ottie, have been born, both of whom are living at home.

George Ridenour is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Continental, and is a Democrat. Mrs. Ridenour is a member of Mt. Zion Chapel, United Brethren church.

George Ridenour is one of the worthy citizens of Perry township. Although he has never been active in political affairs, he has been a leader in the civic, moral and educational movements of his township. Mr. Ridenour is a man who believes thoroughly in public movements and has been foremost in promoting them in his section of Putnam county. He is a man of splendid poise and a very fine sensibility. He is highly respected by his neighbors and admired by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

MICHAEL F. DOBMEYER.

Success comes to the deserving. It is an axiom demonstrated by experience that a man gets out of his life just about what he puts into it, with a reasonable interest on his investment. The man who starts in the world largely unaided, and who, by sheer force of will, industrious habits and good management, forges ahead and takes a position of honor and trust and business responsibility among his neighbors and fellow citizens, is a man to be admired and honored. Michael F. Dobmeyer, a well-known hardware employe of Miller City, Ohio, is a man who has made a notable success in the business life of Palmer township. He belongs to that class of men who have contributed much to the bone and sinew of Putnam county, and added to the stability of government and its institutions generally.

Michael F. Dobmeyer was born on September 27, 1878, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, one and one-fourth miles northeast of Miller City. He is a son of Frank and Barbara (Steinbauer) Bobmeyer.

The maternal grandparents of Michael Dobmeyer were natives of Bavaria, Germany, and lived and died in their native land. His paternal grandparents were natives also of Bavaria, Germany, who emigrated to America in the early days and settled first near Columbus, Ohio, where they remained for about three years. Later they came to Putnam county, Ohio,

and were among the pioneers of this section, later moving to North Dakota, where they died.

Frank Dobmeyer, the father of Michael F., was born in Bavaria, Germany, and grew to manhood in that country. After coming to America, he settled in Columbus, Ohio, where he remained for several years. He was married to Barbara Steinbauer, who was also a native of Bavaria, and who came to this country and located in Columbus, Ohio. She had come to America alone. After their marriage, they settled on a farm in Palmer township, in Putnam county, Ohio, which farm consisted of forty acres, and which had previously been purchased by Mr. Dobmeyer. Besides farming, he worked as a carpenter, which trade he had learned in his native land, and which he had followed to some extent in that country. His services in this line were in great demand in Putnam county, and he was considered a skilled workman. Prior to coming to Putnam county he worked as a car repairer, at Columbus, Ohio. He is now living retired in Miller City. He is a Democrat in politics and served as township supervisor. He and his family are members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church, at Miller City.

Of the children born to Frank and Barbara (Steinbauer) Dobmeyer, Frank lives at Oakland, California; John lives at Defiance, Ohio; Michael is the immediate subject of this sketch; Joseph is mayor of Miller City, and Mary died in infancy.

Michael F. Dobmeyer spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, remaining there until 1908. He received his education in the township schools. Michael F. Dobmeyer was married on May 31, 1905, to Emma Rechline, who was born on September 26, 1887, in Ottawa township, south of Glandorf, the daughter of Anton and Mary (Kottenbrock) Rechline.

After his marriage, Mr. Dobmeyer remained on his father's farm for three years, when he moved to Miller City, where he engaged in the retail liquor business for three years. He disposed of this business and served as marshal of Miller City for two years, and worked for the German-American Sugar Beet Company, of Paulding, Ohio. On June 15, 1914, Mr. Dobmeyer engaged in the hardware and implement business of Frank Giesken, as an employe, at Miller City, where he assists in the management of the business. This firm does an extensive business among the farmers of the surrounding community. At present Mr. Dobmeyer is in the restaurant business at Miller City, which is both increasing and prosperous.

Michael F. Dobmeyer and wife are the parents of four children, Cornelius, born on May 31, 1906; Clara, January 22, 1908; Raymond, June 1, 1911, and Arthur, September 16, 1913. Cornelius and Clara are attending school at Miller City.

Michael F. Dobmeyer is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Miller City. He and his family are earnest and devoted members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church. Mr. Dobmeyer is a Democrat, and has served as township supervisor and also as marshal. He still owns his farm of forty-seven acres in Palmer township, and is justly rated as one of the substantial and representative citizens of his part of the county.

JOHN J. MILLER.

Among those men of high personal attainment and strength of character who have reflected honor on the community, and at the same time attained to a commendable position among their fellow men, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this paragraph, a man who, in every walk of life, has performed his full part, and who has given his unreserved support to every movement for the public welfare.

John J. Miller was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on May 10, 1872, and is a son of Jacob W. and Catherine (Best) Miller. Jacob W. Miller was born near Piqua, Ohio, on September 19, 1831, a son of Jackson and Margaret (Teegarden) Miller. Jackson Miller and wife were both natives of Pennsylvania who emigrated early in pioneer days to Piqua, Ohio, where they were married, shortly after which time they moved to Putnam county, locating on what became a part of Sugar Creek township, Allen county, where they spent the remainder of their days. Jacob W. Miller was married to Catherine Best when he was twenty-seven years of age. To them were born the following children: William, deceased; George, Sarah, deceased; John J., Jane, Ann, Margaret, deceased; Mary and Allen.

John J. Miller was reared under the parental roof and secured his education in the old Michael district school. Upon leaving school he applied himself to the operation of the home farm, where he remained until thirty-one years of age, when he was married, and then located on forty acres of the southwest portion of the homestead farm, which has been his residence, continuously, since. He has made many permanent and substantial improvements on this place, including an eight-room residence, modern in every respect, a large and commodious barn and other necessary farm buildings. He has added ten acres to his home place, thus giving him an estate of fifty acres, and, in addition to this, he also farms forty acres adjoining him on

the west. He has followed a diversified system of farming, giving proper attention to the rotation of crops and other improved ideas relating to successful agriculture and also giving some attention to the raising of live stock, breeding Polled-Durham cattle, of which he has some splendid specimens of thoroughbred stock. The general appearance of the place indicates Mr. Miller to be a man of good taste and splendid ideas and creates a good impression upon the passers-by.

On January 11, 1903, John J. Miller was married to Ida M. Eastman, who was born on September 15, 1882, near Hamer, Jackson township, the daughter of Adolerous and Minerva (Cattels) Eastman. Adolerous Eastman was born in Madison county in 1846, and his wife was born in Paulding county, Ohio, in 1859, and died on July 30, 1887. Mr. Eastman was married three times, his first wife being Lucinda Jane Olliver. To this union were born five children, Arabelle, Elma, Clinton, Maleon, Lucinda. Mr. Eastman's second wife was Minerva Cattels, and to them were born four children, May, Ida, Ethel and Goldie, the latter dying when three years of age. Mr. Eastman's third wife was Mary McDonald, and to this union was born one child, Fred. Mrs. Miller spent her early life in Putnam county, and was about twenty years of age when she was married to Mr. Miller. To them have been born two children, Virgil Emerson, born on June 25, 1906; and Clarence Ivan, born on November 15, 1909.

The Eastmans come from an old family, records of which can be traced back to 1602, in Southampton, England. The first Eastman, landing in 1638, at Salisbury, Massachusetts, was born in Southampton, England, in 1611, and married Sarah Smith, who was born in 1621, and died on April 11, 1697, both of whom were members of the Salisbury church, where is recorded, in 1694, the name of the first of the Eastmans to come to this country. Roger Eastman had two brothers who emigrated with him. Both died without having married. Ida Eastman, wife of the subject of this sketch, was the daughter of Adolerous, who was the son of Aplor, who was the son of John, who was the son of Joseph, who was the son of Peter, who was the son of Joseph, who was the son of Roger, the first Eastman to reach this country. The Eastman genealogical tree today spreads over every part of the United States.

Mr. Miller has always taken a deep interest in public affairs and has been allied with the Democratic party, though too busy to give much personal attention to local politics. He attends the Christian church, of which Mrs. Miller is a member. In touching upon the life history of the subject of this sketch, the writer has aimed to avoid extravagant praise, yet it has

been a pleasure to hold up for consideration those facts which have shown the distinction of a true, useful and honorable life. A man of broad ideas, kindly purpose and human sympathy, Mr. Miller has won and retains a host of warm personal friends throughout this section of the state, where his life has been spent.

ABRAHAM P. ASKINS.

One of the progressive farmers and highly respected citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is Abraham P. Askins of Sugar Creek township. Possessing energy and determination, he has been very successful in making everything he undertakes result to his advantage. His success in his chosen calling is attested to by the fact that, having started in an humble way, he is now the owner of valuable real estate, and has accumulated this by his own personal efforts. In fact, Mr. Askins is one of the well-known and substantial citizens of this section of Putnam county, and is popular with a large number of people.

Abraham P. Askins was born on September 29, 1858, in the northwest part of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. He is the son of Thomas and Rebecca (Funk) Askins.

Thomas Askins was born on January 2, 1810, in Frederick county, Virginia, and he was the son of Posey and Nancy (Barnes) Askins, both of whom were natives of Virginia. Posey Askins spent his early life in Virginia. He was a farmer by occupation, and enlisted in the War of 1812, but never saw service on account of the termination of the war. He came to Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1832, making the trip overland by wagon. Here he bought a farm east of Lancaster, and here he remained the rest of his life. He died in Lancaster at an advanced age.

Thomas Askins, who was one of a large family of children, was twenty-two years of age when he came to Ohio with his parents. He had received his early education in Virginia, where his childhood and youth were spent. After coming to Ohio, he remained with his parents in Fairfield county, helping his father on the old home place. Here he remained until after the death of his mother in 1852, when, at the age of forty-two, he came to Putnam county, where he was employed for about five years in Union and Jennings township, a part of the time for Hiram Sarber of former township. During his first five years, he purchased three tracts of land, one hundred and sixty acres in all, in Jennings township. At the age of forty-seven, in 1857, he was married to Rebecca Funk, who was born in Fairfield county, Ohio,

the first time in the history of the world.

It is a great pleasure to me to see you here.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

With best wishes,

Yours very truly, J. B. [Signature]

I am very glad to hear of your success.

1

I am very glad to hear of your success.

With best wishes,

Yours very truly, J. B. [Signature]

I am very glad to hear of your success.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

I am very glad to hear of your success.

February 13, 1825. She was the daughter of Abraham and Mary (Guile) Funk, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. They came to Fairfield county from Pennsylvania in the early days, and in 1840, the year in which Henry Harrison was elected president, came to Putnam county, settling in Union township. Here they remained for the balance of their lives. Rebecca Funk was one of five children, two sons and three daughters, and was a young woman when she came to Putnam county. Here she remained until her marriage to Thomas Askins.

After his marriage, Thomas Askins located on eighty acres two miles northwest of Rimer, to which farm he afterward added twenty acres. This farm had but a few acres cleared. It had a two-room hewed log cabin and a log barn. Thomas Askins proceeded to clear his land and succeeded in getting this work about half finished before his death, which occurred on November 2, 1875. He was a hard-working and industrious man, of a strongly religious nature, and with Baptist sympathies. He was a man who enjoyed the respect of his fellow citizens. Politically, he was a Republican. His wife, Rebecca, survived him a good many years, dying at the old home place September 3, 1902. They were the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters. Abraham P., the eldest, is the subject of this sketch; William lives at Toledo, Ohio; Mary E. married Robert Blakely of Tiffin, Ohio, and Nancy married Alexander Cromley, of Tiffin.

Abraham P. Askins was born on the old homestead, which is his present residence. Here he spent his childhood and youth. He attended the old McLain district school, and after finishing the common schools, he continued to help his father on the old home place. It fell to the lot of Abraham P. Askins and his brother, William, to clear the remaining half of the farm. When Abraham P. was seventeen years of age his father died. With his brother, he assumed charge of the home place.

Abraham P. Askins was married on March 25, 1880, at the age of twenty-one years, to Martha Westenbarger, who was born on November 3, 1860, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died on June 25, 1894. She was a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Derrickson) Westenbarger, both of whom were natives of Fairfield county, Ohio. The former was of Pennsylvania German parentage, and the latter was a native of Delaware.

After his marriage Mr. Askins rented a farm, one-half mile northeast of the home place, for two years, after which time he moved back to the home farm, which has been his place of residence ever since. After settling on the home place, Mr. Askins finished clearing and draining the farm, and built a beautiful eleven-room residence, and a large barn and

other outbuildings. He has one of the best-improved farms in Sugar Creek township. Mr. Askins has always done general farming, and has been very successful.

To Abraham P. and Martha (Westenbarger) Askins nine children have been born: Pearl is the wife of George Ream and resides at Sugar Grove, in Fairfield county, Ohio; James resides in Jennings township; Harry resides on the old home place. He married Stella Lothes, of Licking county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Jacob and Minerva (Pyles) Lothes, and was born in Noble county, Ohio, January 26, 1888. Jacob Lothes was a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and his wife of Maxburg, Noble county, Ohio. Harry Askins and wife have three children, Harold Vernon, May 29, 1910; Bernard, June 30, 1912; and an infant, December 20, 1914. Maude married Effenger Neeley, and resides at Missoula, Montana; Russell lives in Jennings township; Leona is the wife of Thomas Fairbanks, of Clarindon, Virginia; Myrtle is the wife of Anthony Klausung, of Delphos, Ohio; John lives in Jennings township; Sarah married Walter Blockberger and resides at Delphos, Van Wert county.

Abraham P. Askins is a Republican. He is one of Sugar Creek township's well-known and substantial citizens and farmers, and is well and favorably known in this and adjoining townships. He is a man of enviable reputation and deserves the esteem in which he is held by his neighbors.

JOHN T. MAAG.

The biographies of successful men are instructive as guides and incentive to those whose careers are yet to be achieved. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and consecutive endeavor, strongly illustrate what is in the power of each to accomplish. John T. Maag is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and who has achieved a definite degree of success in the special sphere to which his talents and his energies have been devoted. Mr. Maag is a representative citizen of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, and one of its most successful farmers.

John T. Maag was born in 1864, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Bernadina (Kahle) Maag, the former a native of Cincinnati, born in 1838, and the son of Theodore Maag, who came from Germany.

William Maag was the only child born to his parents and he was prob-

ably only a year old when the family moved to Pleasant township and where his father, Theodore Maag, purchased land and lived the remainder of his life. William Maag married Bernadina Kahle, a native of Greensburg township and a sister of I. N. Kahle, whose sketch is found elsewhere in this volume gives the family history. After the marriage of William Maag, he farmed in Pleasant township. He began with eighty acres and purchased land until he owned three hundred and sixty-four acres. He was a successful man and was ably assisted by his son. His wife, Bernadina, was first married to Joseph Stechschulte, who died, leaving three children, Bernadina, Anna and Amelia. By her second marriage there were ten children who grew to maturity, Ignatius and Theresa dying after they were grown. The living children are, Mrs. Mary Schroeder, John C., Frank, William, Mrs. Bertha Scheckehoff, Mrs. Lena Fuerst, Joseph and Henry.

John T. Maag lived at home until his marriage, which took place on August 21, 1889, when he was married to Elizabeth Lammers, who was born in Ottawa township, near New Cleveland. She is the daughter of Henry and Gertrude (Siebeneck) Lammers. Henry Lammers was born in Germany and came to America when a young man. He came to Glandorf and there married Gertrude Siebeneck, who was born in Glandorf, and was the daughter of Bernard Henry and Gertrude (Inkrot) Siebeneck. Bernard Henry Siebeneck was born in Prussia and came to this country, about 1835, entering government land in Greensburg township. He remained in this country a year and then returned to Germany where he married Gertrude Gross Inkrot. They came here to live and spent the remainder of their lives in Greensburg township.

After Mr. Lammers was married, he began farming for himself at New Cleveland, where he purchased a farm and lived the remainder of his life. He owned two eighty-acre tracts of land and was the father of seven children, one of whom died in infancy. Henry died at the age of twenty-one years. The following are living: John, Mary, Anna, Gertrude and Elizabeth.

To John T. and Elizabeth (Lammers) Maag, eight children have been born, Amelia, who died at the age of ten years; Cornelius, who died at the age of four years; Urban, who died at the age of seven months; Mary, who died at the age of five months; Charles, August 24, 1890, who is twenty-four years of age and helps his father on the farm; Laura, January 23, 1893; Clara, March 6, 1897, and Cornelia, April 26, 1900, all of whom are at home.

After Mr. Maag was married, he began farming, three miles northwest of Leipsic, where he has lived since that time. He began with fifty-two acres, nearly all of which was covered with heavy woods and water. At this

time, there was a small shack in which the family lived and a straw-shed was the only stable. Mr. Maag cleared, drained and improved the land, built a large and comfortable house, a large barn and other outbuildings. He has purchased more land, from time to time, until he now owns over one hundred acres, worth about two hundred dollars an acre. The Maag family have been hard-working, prudent farmers and have prospered as a consequence of these habits.

John T. Maag and family are all members of the Catholic church and devoted to the welfare of this denomination.

JAMES A. IRWIN.

The flail of our fathers has given way to the threshing machine and the old-fashioned corn-cutter is laid on the shelf. Corn is now cut by machinery. The old-fashioned shucking-peg has given way to the modern corn-husker, and the farmer of today has all of the advantages which the inventive spirit of American industry has devised. The pioneer farmer is fast passing away and within the next few years they will be gone. James A. Irwin is one of the younger generation of farmers whose father, however, struggled against the privations and hardships of pioneer farm life during the early days of Putnam county's history. By adopting modern methods, James A. Irwin has come to be one of the foremost farmers and citizens of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio.

James A. Irwin was born on March 13, 1874, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Benjamin F. and Lydia Jane (Hayden) Irwin. Benjamin F. Irwin was born on November 30, 1821, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He came to Putnam county in 1832 and was the son of Josiah Kennedy and Catherine (Barkman) Irwin. Benjamin F. Irwin's first wife, Sarah J. Leese, was born on April 26, 1836, and died on June 28, 1861. By this first marriage, there were four children: Herman L., born on June 16, 1855; Margaret A., September 5, 1857; Eva, August 1, 1859; and Sarah J., June 28, 1861. Benjamin F. Irwin was married the second time on March 28, 1864, to Lydia J. Hayden, who was born in Stark county, Ohio, May 7, 1839, and who was the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Brothers) Hayden. To this second marriage, the following children were born: Martha Emma, on March 9, 1865; Clement L., July 26, 1866, died on September 19, 1866; George T., September 20, 1867; Benjamin F., Jr., August 25, 1869; Nathaniel K., January 20, 1871; James A., March 13, 1874,

and is the subject of this sketch; Charles P., December 9, 1876; Kemmer L., May 16, 1879; Guy, of Pleasant township. Benjamin F. Irwin had an uncle who served in the War of 1812.

After coming to Putnam county, Ohio, with his parents, who settled about three miles west of Columbus Grove, in Pleasant township, Benjamin F. Irwin grew to manhood on the old homestead of his parents. His father, Josiah Irwin, was one of the pioneer settlers and passed through all the experiences of the men of his day and generation. He lived to a ripe old age and died on the old homestead.

Of the children born to Benjamin F. Irwin's second marriage, Emma married George Barnt; George died at the age of twenty-nine; Benjamin F., Jr., and Nathaniel reside in Pleasant township; James A. is the subject of this sketch; Charles P. and Kemmere L. reside in Sugar Creek township; Guy resides in Pleasant township.

Benjamin F. Irwin was very successful in farming, as well as in raising horses and attributes a considerable of his success to this phase of his work. At one time he owned about six hundred acres of land in Pleasant and Sugar Creek townships. James A. Irwin spent his childhood and youth on the old home place in Pleasant township. He attended the old Turner district school and after finishing school, continued to help his father on the home place. After this he located on a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, in the northeast part of Sugar Creek township. This farm belonged to his father. After the first year he farmed this place in partnership with his brother, Charles.

James A. Irwin was married, at the age of thirty, on September 7, 1904, to Rosa Caroline Miller, who was born in Allen county, January 28, 1875, and who was the daughter of Henry and Margaret (Sauer) Miller. Henry Miller was born on April 29, 1841, in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and died on March 7, 1912, on the old Miller homestead in Allen county. Henry Miller came to America with his parents at the age of nine years and settled in Monroe township, Allen county. Here he lived the remainder of his life. He was the son of Michael and Catherine (Kunkleman) Miller, and one of four sons. The others were John, Christian and Adam. Mrs. Mary (Sauer) Miller was born in Prussia, on January 21, 1847, and was the daughter of Frantz and Catherine (Harmon) Sauer. She came to America when seven years of age with her parents who settled first in Pickaway county, Ohio, and a few years later moved to Monroe township, Allen county. Here Frantz Sauer remained the rest of his life, dying in June, 1904, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife, Catherine, still survives

and lives with her daughter, Mrs. Minerva Holmes, at Loomis, Michigan. Frantz and Catherine Sauer had three children, Mary, Louisa and Minerva, all of whom are living. Henry and Mary Miller had fourteen children, all of whom are living and all of whom are married except three. They are as follow: Margaret, John, Emma, Anna, Alice, Sarah, Caroline (the wife of Mr. Irwin), Bertha, William Harmon, Louis, Clara, Grace and Arthur.

After Mr. Irwin's marriage, he took up his residence on the west half of the one hundred and twenty acres he had previously farmed, and here he has erected a commodious residence of six rooms. Prior to his marriage he also had built a barn, thirty-six by fifty feet. Since that time he has added other buildings. He has always done general farming and paid especial attention to corn and hogs. In addition to his home place of sixty acres, he farms forty acres with his brother, Charles.

James A. and Rose Caroline (Miller) Irwin have five children, Mildred, born on May 30, 1905; Lenore, April 21, 1907; Marie, July 20, 1909; Bryce, December 30, 1911, and Miller Vern, May 14, 1915.

James A. Irwin and family attend the Christian church at Columbus Grove. Mr. Irwin is a Democrat. He is one of Sugar Creek township's substantial farmers, highly respected in his community, and honored for his industry, good management and genial disposition.

JOHN MAIDLOW.

"In Memoriam!" No two words in the English language combine in more meaningful phrase than these. How much of respectful consideration, how much of tender devotion and how much of sincere regard for the memory of one who has gone on before, is implied in the use of the term with which this paragraph is introduced. In a monumental work of the character contemplated by the compilers of this extraordinary volume it seems eminently fitting that there should here and there throughout these pages be presented for the consideration not only of the present generation of readers, but for those who perchance shall have occasion to review these pages in generations yet to come, a brief and modest summary of the lives of those departed fathers of the commonwealth who long since have passed from the scenes of present activity. In following this design, the biographer

surely would be remiss in his duty to the people of Putnam county if this book were permitted to go forth without an epitome of the life and of the works of the gentleman whose name heads this particular chapter of the biographical section of this history of the county, a name which has the power to recall many pleasant memories on the part of those now surviving, who, in his day here, knew so well and respected so highly the subject of this respectful memoir.

John Maidlow, late deceased, in his time one of the best known and most influential farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, for many years a resident of Blanchard township, this county, where his death occurred on December 6, 1889, was born in England on February 11, 1812, and he came to America with his parents in the year 1820, when he was eight years of age. By reason of John Maidlow's tender age, at the time he arrived in this country, he truly might be said to have been an American in all save birth and it certainly is the truth that no native-born American ever loved the country more or took a greater interest in its development.

At the age of thirteen, John Maidlow moved to Knox county, Ohio, where he grew to vigorous manhood, acquiring, with a sturdy body, such education as the local schools of that period afforded and laying the foundation for an after life of much usefulness to his fellow men. On February 18, 1834, Mr. Maidlow was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda A. Douds, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, on February 17, 1816, the marriage taking place at the home of the bride's parents, three miles north of Mt. Vernon. Three years later, on March 4, 1837, to be exact, Mr. Maidlow and his wife came to Putnam county, Ohio, and settled in Blanchard township, Where they spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring on December 6, 1889, and hers on August 18, 1897. On this old home place, this honored couple lived to celebrate their "golden" wedding anniversary, February 18, 1884, on which happy occasion a very large party of friends and relatives was present, among these being twelve children, forty grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

To John and Lucinda A. (Douds) Maidlow were born the following children: James A., who married Mary Ann Buckland; Elizabeth Sophia, who married N. C. Conine; Ann, who married D. E. Sandles; C. Edmund, who married Belle Kline, now deceased; Chloe Rogers, deceased; William Franklin, who married Miranda Conine, now deceased; Rebecca Jane, who married E. H. Buckland; Agnes Padwick, who married Thomas Walford, now deceased; Alice, who married R. L. Brooks; Laura, who married George

Huntsman; Martha Maria, who married Herman McDougle; Alfred Spencer, who married Emma Carpenter, and Putnam, who married Mary Cartwright.

John Maidlow was an extensive and successful farmer and his lands were among the most highly cultivated of any in the county of Putnam. He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence and was widely informed on all matters pertaining to the general interests of his adopted country. He was a wide reader, not only of the newspapers, which kept him informed on current events, but of books, in the reading of which he had a very fine and discriminating taste. He was a pioneer in the matter of better highways, having been one of the most efficient leaders in the movement for gravel roads in the county, as well as being one of the earliest and most persistent advocates of the necessity for a thorough and comprehensive system of drainage of lands, preaching in season and out of season the very high utility of such public improvements. If for no other reason than for the stimulating effect of his advocacy of these vital improvements, Putnam county owes very much to the memory of John Maidlow. In his personal relations with his fellow men, Mr. Maidlow was a man of generous impulses and of scrupulous honesty, and in the neighborhood in which he lived so many years and in which he was so strong a factor for good, these lovely human traits in him are not forgotten to this day. In his good works, he ever was ably abetted by his good wife, whose memory also is held in the highest regard even to this day, in that neighborhood.

John Maidlow was active in the public affairs of Putnam county, his voice always being raised in behalf of such measures as seemed to him best fitted to advance the common weal. Despite the fact, however, of his continued and active participation in the political campaigns of his party—he was ever an earnest and consistent Democrat,—Mr. Maidlow persistently declined to accept nominations to public office, though his party frequently honored him by pressing upon him the desirability of his acceptance of such nominations. He did serve his party in 1868, however, by going as one of the delegates from the tenth congressional district of Ohio to the national convention of the Democratic party, in session that year in New York city.

John Maidlow was a Mason and took an earnest part in the affairs of that popular ritualistic order in this county. In all the relations of life, he stood four-square with the world and his memory will not soon be permitted to perish in this county, whose best concerns he served so well and so faithfully during his long and useful life.

BERNARD I. STECHSCHULTE.

Mental and physical activity go hand in hand with material success in life. The success of individuals generally means the success and prosperity of the community. The community honors its most active men by entrusting to them the responsibilities demanding careful and wise attention, and one of the most important positions is that of school trustee, and it is with great pride that we may mention here the work of Bernard I. Stechschulte, now president of the board of trustees of Liberty township.

Bernard I. Stechschulte, the son of Henry and Bertha (Kahle) Stechschulte, was born in Ottawa township, near Glandorf, Ohio, in Putnam county. The sketch of August Stechschulte, found elsewhere in this volume, gives in details the family history.

Bernard I. Stechschulte was married at the age of twenty-six years to Thersia Morman. She was born in Greensburg township, about four miles west of Ottawa, and is a daughter of John and Gertrude (Verhoff) Morman. John Morman was born in Hanover, Germany, and is a farmer of Greensburg township, in this county. His wife, Gertrude Verhoff, was born one mile west of Glandorf, the daughter of Frank and Mary Verhoff. Mrs. Stechschulte was reared on his father's farm in Greensburg township.

After his marriage, Mr. Stechschulte farmed one year in Van Buren township on rented land, after which he bought sixty acres near Elm Center, in Liberty township, and has lived there since that time. He is now the owner of one hundred and ninety-six acres of fine farming land, having gradually added to his original purchase as his prosperity increased.

The farm premises of Mr. Stechschulte are neat and attractive, with good buildings and modern equipment. He has recently engaged in the horse-breeding business and keeps a full-blooded Percheron stallion which is registered by the American Percheron Association and is of splendid pedigree.

Bernard I. and Theresia (Morman) Stechschulte are the parents of four sons and three daughters, all of whom are living, while one child died in infancy. These children are as follow: Agatha, the wife of Albert Karhoff, who lives in Ottawa township; Amelia; Lawrence; John; Gertrude; Bernard and Frank.

Bernard I. Stechschulte is a Democrat, and is now serving as trustee of Liberty township. He has served in other important official positions, such as a member of the school board, and is now serving his third year as

trustee and is president of the trustees of Liberty township. In all of his official duties, Mr. Stechschulte has discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the people to whom he is responsible.

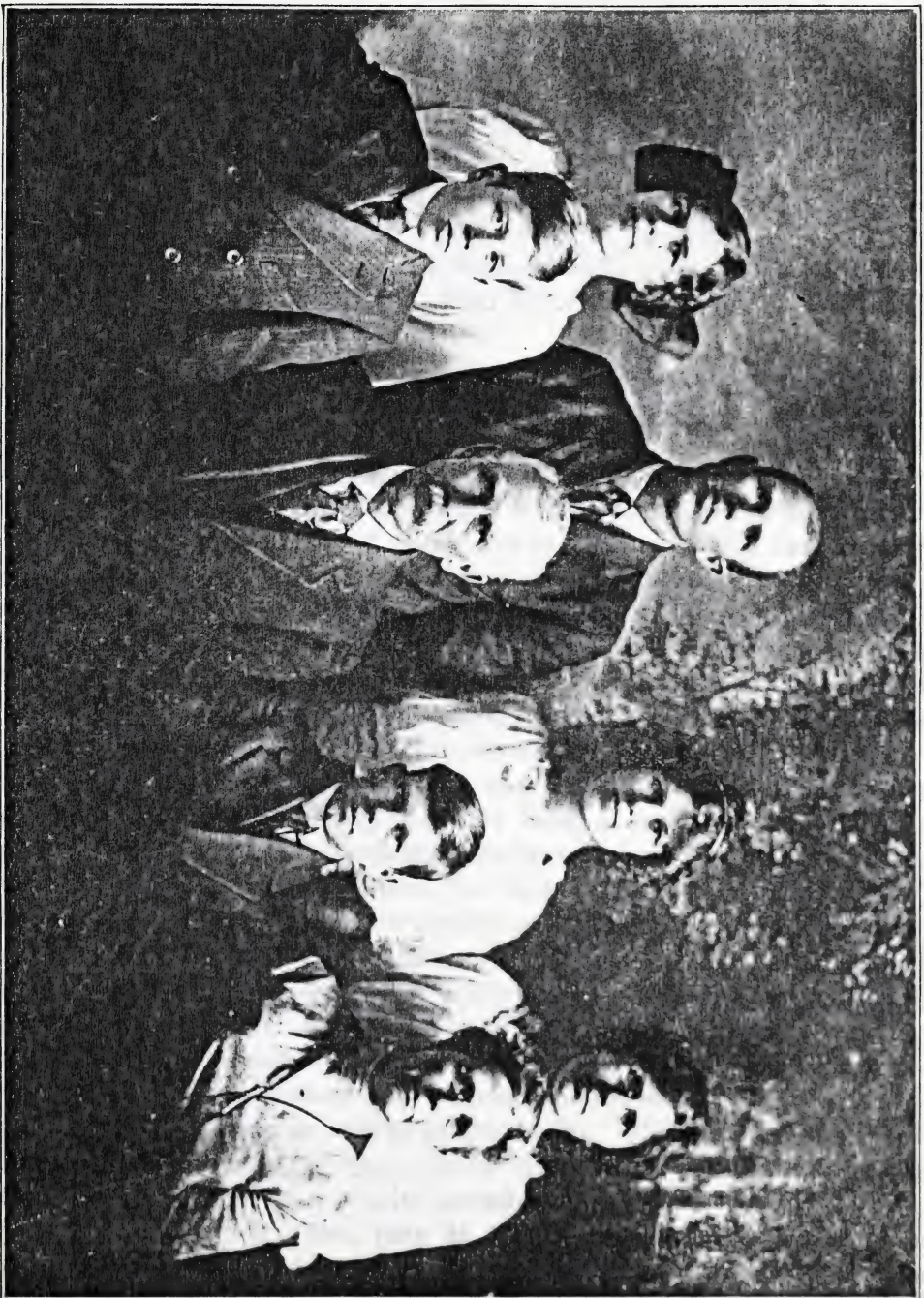
Bernard I. Stechschulte and family are all devout members of the St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. He is a genial, active and popular man in the community where he lives.

JOHN M. CARDER.

The rich agricultural section comprised within the bounds of Putnam county, Ohio, is replete with pleasant homes, housing a happy and contented people. No spot in the great state of Ohio is more favored in this regard than is the county with which this volume particularly treats, and in this county there are few spots more highly favored than is that section comprised within the borders of Perry township and the picturesque country surrounding the pleasant town of Continental. Among the farmers in that township there are few who are better known than is John M. Carder, to a brief and modest biography of whom the reviewer here engages the attention of the reader.

John M. Carder was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 1, 1862, the son of John and Arminta (Baer) Carder, the former of whom was a native of Putnam county, who died in 1903, at the age of sixty-seven years, and the latter of whom also was a native of Putnam county, born near Ottawa, and who died in 1882 at the age of forty-seven years.

John Carder was reared upon the parental farm in Union township, this county, and farmed there for some time after reaching manhood, and then moved to Perry township, where he spent the rest of his life. At the time of his death, the older John Carder owned forty acres of land in Union township and sixty acres in Perry township. He was a man of considerable substance and was a good citizen in all the name implies. For many years he was a member of the township school board and the influence of his sound judgment and deep interest in educational affairs ever was exerted in behalf of the schools of the township, his work in that connection being an imperishable monument to his memory in that neighborhood. He was an earnest member of the Dunkard church and frequently occupied the local pulpit of that organization, his sermons being noted for their deep devotional character and their earnest expression of faith. He was a Democrat and his



JOHN M. CARDER AND FAMILY.



voice ever was lifted on behalf of good government, his influence in the counsels of his party in that part of the county having no small weight.

John Carder was united in marriage to Arminta Baer, a member of an old family in Union township, whose parents came from Stark county to Putnam county at an early day and settled near Ottawa, where they engaged in farming, and where they spent the rest of their lives, being among the honored and influential residents of that section of the county. To John and Arminta (Baer) Carder were born three children: Mrs. Martha Prowant, who also lives in Perry township; John M., with whom this review treats, and Harvey, who died in 1884.

John M. Carder was reared on the parental farm in Union township, his early schooling being obtained in the district schools of that township. He was about fourteen years of age when his parents moved to Perry township, and he remained at home until after the death of his mother in 1882, when he started out for himself, working by the month until his marriage, in 1886, at which time he settled on a farm of forty acres and cleared off a space in the woods upon which to erect a house, and here he lived for more than ten years, moving to his present farm in Perry township in the year 1899, at which time he bought two hundred acres, only forty acres of which was cleared, the remainder being in timber. He had learned the secret of hard work while clearing his former and smaller farm, and he set to work with diligence to clear and improve his forest farm. In this he has been successful and his fine, well-ditched and well-fenced farm today carries but eighteen acres of woodland, the remainder being in an excellent state of cultivation. He reduced the size of his farm by the sale of forty acres from his tract of two hundred acres, and now has one hundred and sixty acres, one of the best farms in that part of the county, containing a fine dwelling, a commodious barn, silo and other essential outbuildings. In addition to general farming, Mr. Carder also engages extensively in stock raising and has something more than a local reputation as a breeder of fine thoroughbred Jersey cattle. He started this herd in 1910, and since then has exhibited at the Ottawa fair and has made many sales of Jerseys in the neighboring counties of Defiance and Paulding, as well as in this county. He also has given much attention to the breeding of Duroc-Jersey hogs and his sales of full-blooded stock in this line have proved quite profitable.

On November 25, 1886, John M. Carder was united in marriage to Mary Troyer, who was born in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio, on July 24, 1863, the daughter of Levi and Eliza (Dickey) Troyer, and to this

union six children have been born, Clyde, Blanche, May, Alta, Henry and Ralph, all of whom are at home and who make merry around the fireside of their devoted parents.

John M. Carder and wife are members of the Zion's Chapel United Brethren church, in which faith they have reared their children, and they are active in all the good works of the community. Mr. Carder is a Democrat and is one of the influential men in his vicinity in that party. He gives the most earnest attention to all matters relating to local government, and for the past three terms has served as trustee of the township, in which capacity his work on behalf of the schools has done very much to raise the educational standards of that township. For five years previously he had served as a member of the township school board. He has been township committeeman for his party for some time and is recognized as among the political leaders in the county. He is a fine, congenial man, a good farmer and an excellent judge of stock. He is well liked and popular among all his acquaintances.

HON. ALFRED PUTNAM SANDLES.

Human life is like the waves of the sea. They flash a few brief moments in the sunlight, marvels of power and beauty and then are dashed upon the remorseless shores. Nevertheless, the lives of enterprising men, especially of good men, are instructive as guides and incentives to others. The examples they furnish, of steadfast purpose and inflexible integrity, strongly illustrate what it is possible to accomplish in the world. Some men belong to no exclusive class in life. Apparently insurmountable obstacles have, in many instances, awakened and developed their faculties and served as a stimulant to carry them to ultimate success, and Hon. Alfred Putnam Sandles has lived to good purpose and has achieved a much greater degree of success than falls to the lot of the ordinary individual. By a straightforward and commendable course he has made his way upward to a position of unique prominence. By his own efforts he has won the esteem and hearty admiration of his fellow citizens, and has justly deserved the honors which the public has graciously bestowed upon him.

Hon. Alfred Putnam Sandles, president of the agricultural commission of Ohio, was born in a log house in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 5, 1871. As the biographical annals of Ohio set forth, "He was born in a log house near the Putnam county poor house, in 1871,

farm product, home-grown and hand-spanked." Mr. Sandles is a son of David Ephraim and Ann (Maidlow) Sandles, the former of whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and moved to Licking county, where he grew to maturity. At the age of sixteen or seventeen, he enlisted in Company D, First Ohio Cavalry, and served until the close of the Civil War. Before the age of twenty years, he voted for Lincoln. David E. Sandles was attached to the Army of the Cumberland. After the close of the war, he came to Blanchard township, Putnam county, and engaged in farming. Here he was married to Ann Maidlow, who was born in Blanchard township, near the county infirmary, and who was a daughter of John and Lucinda (Douds) Maidlow, who are referred to elsewhere in this volume. David E. Sandles and wife remained on the farm until well advanced in years, when they moved to Ottawa, where they now live.

Hon. Alfred Putnam Sandles spent his boyhood days on the farm. He attended Crawfis College, the Normal School at Leipsic, and Otterbein University, at Westerville, Ohio. He began teaching at the age of twenty-one years, and taught two years in Blanchard township, one year in Riley township, and six years in the schools of Ottawa. While in the latter position he served two years as president of the Putnam county teachers' institute. During his first year, as president, he started the custom of devoting one day of institute week to parents' and directors' meetings. It proved a great success and spread over Ohio, and is continued to this day. During this period. Mr. Sandles's services were often in demand as a lecturer on educational topics.

In the early nineties, Mr. Sandles evinced an active interest in politics. He was an ardent Democrat and, in 1896, was made chairman of the Putnam county Democratic convention. In 1900 and 1903 he was elected clerk of the county courts of Putnam county, and in 1901 was elected chairman of the county executive committee. He was re-elected every campaign for twelve years. He was also elected a member of the Democratic state executive committee in 1902, and became secretary and treasurer of the committee, and practically managed the campaign. In 1903 and 1904 he was a member of the state central committee. So well and widely known over Ohio had Mr. Sandles become by 1904, as an enthusiastic party worker and organizer, that he was practically unanimously nominated by the Democrats as their standard-bearer for secretary of state, his name heading the ticket. That was the Roosevelt landslide year, and, of course, he was defeated with the rest of the ticket, but he had the satisfaction of running ahead of Judge Parker in this state by several thousand votes. When the late Governor Pat-

terson was nominated in 1905, Mr. Sandles was, at Governor Patterson's request, made a member of the committee on resolutions, and as a member of the sub-committee, helped draft the famous platform which contributed so much to the success of the ticket. The platform was virtually the same as his principal campaign speech of the previous year. In the following January he was elected clerk of the Ohio Senate, and served three years.

Mr. Sandles' interest in agriculture seems to have run in parallel channels with his interest in education and politics. In January, 1895, he was elected secretary of the Putnam County Agricultural Society, and has served, continuously, ever since. He organized what was known as the Ohio Fair Managers' Association in 1897, and this association now includes every county in Ohio. Through its influence, several important laws have been enacted. He also conceived the idea of closer co-operation between fair and schools, and of paying premiums on "brains" as well as on "bulls." To encourage educational and school exhibits at county fairs, premiums were offered, and the idea has grown more and more popular, and has been taken up by some forty other counties in the state, and also by the State Fair Association. The premiums consist chiefly of books, and today aggregate over twenty-six thousand volumes. Practically every school in Putnam county has at least a small library because of this feature of the county fair. This practice has had a good influence on the schools, for it presents each school on a competitive basis. For many years Putnam county had more Boxwell graduates than any other county because of the interest this competition has aroused.

Hon. Alfred P. Sandles has been president of the Ohio Race Circuit, embracing fifty-seven counties, and in 1908, was elected to the board of review of the National Trotting Association, which is the supreme court of the trotting world. He was elected a member of the state board of agriculture in 1892, and in 1906 was president of the board, and in 1907 was re-elected a member. In January, 1909, he resigned to become secretary of the board, holding this position until August 6, 1913, when the new law created the agricultural commission of Ohio. He was appointed for a six-year term as a member of the commission, consisting of four active members. When the commission met and organized, Mr. Sandles was elected its president, and still holds this position. His work in promoting the agricultural interests of Ohio has been truly wonderful, and has won for him a national reputation. Space is too limited to give more than a meager outline of his work. His position on the Putnam county agricultural board gave him years of practical experience from his youth, so that from early life he

has developed as an older man could not have done. Many of the plans instituted by him in Putnam county have been tried out, and after having proved successful, have been taken up in the larger field of the state. Under his leadership, orchard demonstrations, which eventually have led to the rejuvenation of thousands of acres of apple orchards and present enormous profit in fruit lands. The free pass nuisance and graft were eliminated in connection with the state fairs. The state board of agriculture has been taken out of politics and made bi-partisan. The people are employed because of merit and fitness. Agricultural trains and demonstration cars are run over railroads for the betterment of the people, and the railroad companies were induced to give service free. The frauds and scandals in regard to farm fertilizers were brought to a close by turning on them the calcium light of publicity, publishing in the monthly reports issued by the state board of agriculture the chemical analyses of fertilizers, and posting in a "Danger" column the analysis of those fertilizers which fell below the standard of their published guarantee. This feature grew in importance, and later, Mr. Sandles had a bill passed by the Legislature that eliminated all of the fraudulent features of the business and put it on an honest basis, so that farmers may now know what they are buying.

Against much opposition, Mr. Sandles got the bill passed while he was clerk of the senate, and his position helped him to steer the bill past all the reefs and rocks of the tortuous channel of legislation. His fight in this contest alone would make a story of rare interest. At his suggestion, night exhibitions were successfully inaugurated at the state fair. The live stock interests of the state and sanitary conditions have been given attention, and liberal appropriations have been made. The manufacture of hog cholera serum was virtually instituted by the state at his suggestion and a plant erected for this purpose.

Attendances at farmers' institutes have doubled, and the work is now made practical and helpful. Extension courses have been established and laws were enacted permitting county experiment farms to be established. Laws were also passed requiring agriculture to be taught in the public schools and over two hundred thousand pupils in Ohio are now studying scientific agriculture. Agricultural colleges attendance has more than doubled in Ohio during this period.

Alfred P. Sandles also conceived and put into operation the idea of giving boys from each county a free trip to the Ohio state fair. He has developed this idea to a marvelous degree. He promoted the corn-growing contest for the boys, the first contest being held in 1912. Free trips to

Washington were offered to boys growing the most corn on a single acre of ground. Five hundred and ten boys of an average age of sixteen years raised an average of eighty-five bushels of corn to the acre in 1912, while the state average for men was only thirty-five bushels. Hundreds of boys were taken on the trip to Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Washington, D. C., and Mount Vernon.

The girls were also encouraged and had contests in baking, canning, apple growing and lawn gardening. Mr. Sandles was able to generate a wide and deep sentiment and enthusiasm for his work. The commercial clubs, the banks, the grain dealers' associations, have all contributed. One thousand and sixty-eight persons in 1914 went on the trip east, with two boys' bands and a girls' band to furnish music. They made the trip on special trains to Washington, where they shook hands with President Wilson and wife, and later had a big time in Philadelphia and New York city, where their coming aroused tremendous enthusiasm and was featured by the newspapers far and near. Great banquets at the Waldorf-Astoria and other places, a ride up the Hudson and out past Ellis Island to the ocean as guests of New York city, and an address by the mayor and others, combined to make the affairs memorable. The boys' badges read, "The rainbow comes down in Ohio," the idea being that they would get the gold at the foot of the rainbow by working in the soil. The girls' badges read, "Buckeye Anti-Divorce League," meaning that good home-keepers make happy homes. All this was done at a cost of about one hundred thousand dollars, but was worth all it cost and more, not merely for the good time these people had, but because it gets the people to thinking, planning and striving to achieve and to excel in that noble calling that is at the foundation of all industry, producing direct from the soil.

Alfred P. Sandles has shown ability as an organizer. He knows how to touch the various chords of human interest, to bring out the enthusiasm and publicity, and withal to put it on a solid basis where the results are permanent and valuable. He is a man of tireless energy, working regularly until near midnight, as well as busy all day, yet he is not too busy to be courteous and friendly, and is every inch a man.

On May 27, 1894, Hon. Alfred Putnam Sandles was married to Laura Moffit, who was born on September 6, 1874, on a farm in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, a daughter of Joab and Amanda (Hopkins) Moffit, who were born and reared in Hancock county, Ohio, and who lived many years in Blanchard township, in this county. They moved to Findlay, Ohio, in 1902, where Mr. Moffit died in July, 1914.

Alfred P. and Laura (Moffit) Sandles are the parents of one son and seven daughters, Bryan Putnam, Frances, Beatrice, Martha, Dorotha, Helen, Catharine and Eleanor.

Alfred P. Sandles is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and was master of the Ottawa lodge for four years. He is a member of the Knights Templar at Lima and also of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Toledo. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Findlay, Governor Dennison Camp, Sons of Veterans, and the Grange. Mr. Sandles has been a member of the Ottawa school board for some time.

Alfred P. Sandles has a rare sense of humor. He helped to institute the famous Crow banquets, which are held at Ottawa following elections, and is attended by many of the most prominent men of Ohio. It is a humorous celebration, participated in by victors and vanquished at the expense of the losing party, certain persons in one party having been paired with certain persons in another party before the election.

With all his other occupations, Mr. Sandles prefers to call himself an editor. He is the editor of the *Putnam County Sentinel*, and has filled this position since 1908, although he was connected with the paper for several years previous to that time.

Alfred Putnam Sandles is a kind and indulgent father, devoted not less to his family than to his country, his state and the county he calls his home.

HENRY KNUEVEN.

It has been a comparatively short time since Putnam county, Ohio, was a dense wilderness. Today there are fine farms where heavy timber once sheltered wild deer, and beautiful homes where a mass of thick underbrush covered fertile ground a few years ago. Among the brave men who struggled for their homes and living and have succeeded in a great measure, is Henry Knueven, who was born in this county and has made it his home all his life.

Henry Knueven, the son of Barney and Mary (Hueve) Knueven, was born on March 5, 1856, at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. Barney Knueven was a native of Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, and came to America when fifteen years of age. He located first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked in a brick yard. He worked here until his marriage, after which he

removed to Glandorf and purchased a farm, and here he lived the remainder of his life.

Henry Knueven grew to manhood on his father's farm near Glandorf, and received his education in the schools of his home neighborhood. On September 4, 1880, he was married to Catherine Ellerbrock, the daughter of Theodore and Anna (Ricker) Ellerbrock. She is a native of this county.

Theodore Ellerbrock was born in Germany on October 4, 1830, and came to America with his parents when about eight years old. The family located on a farm near Glandorf, where his parents developed a farm out of the wilderness, and here they spent the remainder of their lives. Anna Ricker was born near Glandorf about 1872. Theodore Ellerbrock and family moved to Liberty township, near where the Nickel Plate railroad now runs, about three miles west of Leipsic. They bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, of which only a very small part had ever been cultivated. Two of the boys saw deer in the woods feeding with their cattle, which ran in fear of the animals with the big horns. Mr. Ellerbrock gradually improved his land, adding more acreage to his holdings, and later in life, gave each of his five sons a farm. Theodore Ellerbrock and wife were the parents of the following children: Barney, Kate, William, Ferdinand, Henry, Mary and Theodore J. The father died on September 3, 1908, and the mother died on September 13, 1909.

Henry Knueven's father presented him with eighty acres of land in the south part of Liberty township, about two years before his marriage. This land cost about ten dollars an acre, and when Mr. Knueven moved to this farm, it had only a shanty on it and a round log barn, in the way of improvements. The land was covered with timber and the soil was very swampy, but with unceasing industry Mr. Knueven gradually improved the land, draining the soil, and clearing off the heavy timber until he now has a splendid farm where once there was a wilderness, and has added ninety acres more to the place. He has built a splendid new house and a good barn and other outbuildings, necessary in the perfect equipment of an up-to-date farm.

To Henry and Catherine (Ellerbrock) Knueven five children have been born, of whom one daughter, Bertha, died when two years of age. The four living children are: Bernard, Emma, Minnie and Lawrence. Bernard makes his home with his father; Emma is the wife of Jacob Backies, and lives at Milan, Michigan; Minnie is the wife of John Schmenk, and lives three miles north of Mr. Knueven, and they have three children, Arthur, Jacob and Catherine; Lawrence married Maggie Rump, and lives on a farm five miles north of Miller City. He has one daughter, Isabelle.

Henry Knueven is a member of the Democratic party, but has never taken a very active interest in political matters, preferring rather to devote his entire time and attention to his farming interests. The family are all devout members of the Catholic church. Mr. Knueven is interested in the common welfare of his community, and takes an active part in all questions concerning the good of his fellow citizens.

FRANK H. MORMAN.

The pioneers of Putnam county, Ohio, suffered innumerable hardships. Some of the most prosperous farmers and some of the earliest pioneers are of German descent and their success is due to their untiring energy and perseverance. Wherever Germans locate, they prosper and become valuable citizens.

One of the prosperous citizens of Liberty township, Putnam county, is Frank H. Mormon, who came from good German stock. He was born in 1852, in Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Osterfeld) Mormon. His father was born in Osnabrück, Hanover, Germany, and at the age of twelve years came to America with his parents, Anthony and Dorothea (Treme) Mormon.

They came very soon after Professor Horstman and his company settled in Glandorf. Henry Mormon lived in Cincinnati until manhood and was living there when he married Elizabeth Osterfeld. His brothers came to Putnam county, Ohio, and worked at digging on the old canal. Henry Mormon was a cook in a Cincinnati hotel. His wife, Elizabeth Osterfeld, was born in Germany, the daughter of George Osterfeld and wife, who came from Oldenburg, Germany, and who lived on a farm at Minster, Ohio. Henry Mormon moved to Glandorf, after his marriage, and engaged in the general mercantile business, two or three years, until his death. His wife died six months later and Frank H. Mormon, left an orphan one year old, was reared by his father's parents in Greensburg township. When the boy was twelve years of age, his grandparents moved to Glandorf and Frank H. worked out until about twenty-five years old.

He traded about seventeen acres, at Glandorf, for one hundred and sixty acres, in Liberty township, northeast of Elm Center, in 1875. He worked out four years more and then moved to his farm in 1879, which consisted of heavy timber with no improvements. The place was almost

impassable on account of the heavy timber, the brush and the water. He cleared it, ditched it and has over one hundred and forty acres under cultivation and well improved, with good houses, barns and other buildings. Mr. Morman was one of the first settlers in his community. He started in an humble way and has made good.

He was married in 1882 to Catherine Borer. She was born at New Cleveland, in Ottawa township, and is the daughter of Joseph and Bridgetta (Hudinger) Borer. Joseph Borer was born in Switzerland and came to America at the age of twelve with his parents, who settled near Glandorf, where Joseph Borer grew up and married. His first wife died while Mrs. Morman was a little girl and he married again. He was both a farmer and a carpenter.

Frank H. and Catherine (Borer) Morman have five children, four living and one dead, Joseph, Rosa, Gertrude, Caroline and Mary. Joseph married Gertrude Schmenk and lives on a farm two miles north of his father. He has three children, Edmond, Adolph and Mildred; Rosa died at the age of six; Gertrude is the wife of Valentine Schmenk and lives in the southern part of Liberty township; Caroline, the wife of Louis Lammers, lives about two miles north of Elm Center and has three children, Helen, Catherine and Alice. Mary is still single and is at home.

Frank H. Morman is a member of the Democratic party. He and his family are members of the Catholic church at Miller City. They are among the most highly respected citizens of the vicinity where they live and are interested in all questions concerning the common good of the community.

JOHN W. HOHENBRINK.

When we behold the large fertile farms in Putnam county, Ohio, and the splendid homes there, it is hard to believe that these tracts of land were once mere marshes of stagnant water and underbrush and that the splendid homes have replaced log cabins and shacks. When we of the present generation complain of our labor and our struggles, it is well to remember the hardships of our pioneer fathers. Thus we are enabled to appreciate what they have accomplished and under what great hardships success has been attained. Many men have contributed to make Putnam county, Ohio, a garden spot, and one of these men is John William Hohenbrink, of Liberty township.

John W. Hohenbrink was born on March 31, 1860, at Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of Matthias and Kate (Halker) Hohenbrink. Matthias Hohenbrink was born in Glandorf, Germany, and lived there until he was twenty-two years of age, when he came to Putnam county. After working out for a year, he bought a farm of eighty acres of heavily timbered land, one and one-half miles northwest of Ottawa. There he established his home, made out of it a fertile farm and lived there all of his life. His first wife was Kate Halker, a daughter of William Halker, a native of Germany and an early settler of Putnam county. She died when John W. was a week old. After her death, Matthias Hohenbrink married Theresia Huester, who still lives on the old home farm near Glandorf. Matthias Hohenbrink died on July 20, 1894.

John W. Hohenbrink lived at home until he was married, on September 15, 1885, to Mary Koenig. She was born in Liberty township, one-half mile north of the Nickel Plate railroad, the daughter of Charles and Theresia (Roderer) Koenig. Charles Koenig was born in Prussia and grew up there. He was a soldier in the Prussian army before he came to America, after which he married Theresia Roderer, a native of Rheinpfalz. After living two years in Dayton, they moved to Putnam county, about 1850. He bought two eighty-acre tracts in Liberty township, all wild land, timber and swamps, a part of the famous Black swamp. For many years after, they were troubled with frequent high water which ruined the crops. The taxes at first on eighty acres was only two dollars and the good wife paid that from selling butter and eggs. Timber was valueless and it was necessary to burn it to get it out of the way. Here Charles Koenig and wife lived and reared their six children, and here they died, the father on January 25, 1895, and the mother on March 17, 1903.

After Mr. Hohenbrink's marriage, he cultivated his father's farm for two years and then moved a mile north of his present home, in Liberty township, and bought forty acres. He lived there for about four years and then moved to the old Koenig farm, where he has lived ever since. When he moved to the Koenig farm, only two fields were drained, but since that time he has drained all the land, built a good brick house, a large barn, with tile roof, and now has a farm which produces remarkable crops.

John W. and Mary (Koenig) Hohenbrink have eight children, William John, Mary Theresa Theodora, Edward John, Louis John, Mary Emma Frances, Martha Anna Philomena, Hilda Regina Marghereta and Edna Rosa Marguerite. William married Anna Brown and lives on a farm in Henry county. They have two children, Edmund John and Mary Agnes; Theodora

is the wife of John Niese and lives two and one-half miles northeast of her parents. She has one daughter, Leona Mary Elizabeth.

John W. Hohenbrink is a member of the Democratic party. He and his family are members of the Catholic church at Miller City and are prominent in all affairs of the community.

PETER J. MANGUS.

For more than thirty years, Peter J. Mangus has been a resident of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio. Born and reared in Henry county, Ohio, he came to this county immediately after his marriage and located in Liberty township on a farm where he has since made his home. Starting in with a farm of seventy acres, he has added to it as he has prospered year after year until he now owns one hundred and fifty acres in Liberty and Palmer townships. He comes of German ancestry and his life has been characterized by that thrift which has made the people of Germany so successful in this country.

Peter J. Mangus, the son of Peter and Sarah (Jackman) Mangus, was born in New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, in 1856. His parents were both natives of Germany, his father being born in the fall of 1824. Peter Mangus was five years of age when he came to America with his parents, Caspar and Mary Mangus, and located in Henry county, Ohio. At that time practically the whole county was covered with dense forests, and the family was compelled to thread their way along devious Indian trails in order to get to the farm which they had entered from the government. Caspar Mangus was a baker in Germany and made a good living in his native land. He came to this country because land was so cheap, but he had the misfortune to locate in a county which was still unsettled and very swampy. Wild animals of all kinds were roaming the forest when the family located in Henry county. Caspar Mangus lived to see his farm greatly improved and in such a state of cultivation as to make a comfortable living for the family. Peter Mangus grew to manhood on this farm, and, before his marriage, was a canal driver on the old canal from Toledo to Defiance. He drove as many as six mules at a time, one behind the other, and in middle life still retained sufficient agility to mount a mule from the ground without any difficulty. After he drove the mules for some time, he was made captain of a crew of canal drivers, and after his marriage he still continued working on the towpath for two years.

Peter Mangus married Sarah Jackman, a native of France, a daughter of Joseph and Mary Jane Jackman, early settlers in Seneca county, New York, and still later, in Henry county, Ohio. After Peter Mangus stopped working on the canal, he became a stock-buyer and, for a quarter of a century, was engaged in this industry. He bought a farm at New Bavaria, in Henry county, which was operated by his sons, while he continued to give his time and attention to the buying and shipping of live stock. He spent his last years in Defiance, where his death occurred, and where his wife died later, in June, 1913. Peter J. Mangus, Sr., and wife were the parents of nine sons and two daughters, eight of whom are still living, Henry, Frank B., Peter, Jr., Albert, George, Joseph, Andrew and Fred. Theodore died at the age of twenty-one, and the two daughters, Cornelia and Ella, died in childhood.

Peter J. Mangus, Jr., was reared on his father's farm in Henry county, and remained at home until his marriage. He and his brother, Frank, married sisters, and at the time of their marriage, each brother owned a small tract of land at New Bavaria, and their wives also owned a small tract which lay in the northwestern part of Liberty township, in Putnam county. By exchanging with Frank, Peter and his wife became the owners of seventy acres of land in the northwestern part of Liberty township, in Putnam county, and on this farm they have since made their home. When they came to this vicinity they found the land practically covered with a heavy growth of timber and it was necessary to clear away a spot on which to build a little log cabin. Things must have looked very discouraging at first, but with a hearty will they started to work and soon had the satisfaction of seeing their farm yield a very comfortable living. Mr. Mangus erected a large barn in 1893 and two years later built a comfortable home. As the years have gone by, he has been able to add to his land holdings and now owns one hundred and ten acres of fine land in Liberty township and forty acres across the road in Palmer township. He always keeps a high grade of stock and has been particularly successful in the raising of Jersey cattle and Poland China hogs.

Peter J. Mangus was married, in 1882, to Mary Thiebaut, who was born at Findlay, Ohio, and is a daughter of John and Jennie (Marschel) Thiebaut, and to this union have been born four children, Ella, Mary J., Laura and Emily. Ella is the wife of Joseph Swary, a farmer of this county, and has three children, Germaine, Julius and Evaline; Mary J. is the wife of Joseph Oakley, a farmer of this county, and has one son, Virgil; Laura is the wife of Henry Shoemaker, a farmer of this county, and has one daughter, Elma; Emily, the youngest of the four daughters, is single and still living with her parents.

John Thiebaut, the father of Mrs. Mangus, was born in France, in July, 1831, and at the age of twenty-one, came to America and located at Findlay, Ohio, where he secured employment in a grist-mill. Later, he moved on a farm two miles northeast of Leipsic, in Putnam county, Ohio, and in 1863 moved to the northwestern part of Liberty township, where he bought a farm and lived the remainder of his life. He started in with forty acres, but by good management increased it to one hundred and fifty acres before his death. The wife of John Thiebaut, Jennie Marschel, was also a native of France. Her husband died on the sea on their way to America, and her mother came on and located in Findlay, Ohio. John Thiebaut died in July, 1907, at the age of seventy-six, his wife having died seventeen years previously. Two children were born to John Thiebaut and wife, Mary, the wife of Peter Mangus, and Jennie, the wife of Frank B. Mangus.

Peter Mangus and his family are loyal members of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria. He is a Republican, but has never had any inclination to take an active part in political matters. He is a man of essentially domestic taste and is never happier than when seated at his own fireside and surrounded by members of his family. He is a quiet and unostentatious citizen, who has taken his full share of the burdens of civic life, and in all things tried to do his duty as a good American citizen.

GEORGE MULLETT.

Men who clear the rough land, drain the soil and erect attractive and commodious barns and buildings are benefactors to any community. Farming has become a problem of brain as well as brawn, and men, to succeed, must be capable to mastering every phase of scientific agriculture. George Mullett is one of the successful farmers of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, and was born on August 7, 1848, in Licking county, Ohio, the son of John and Maria (Ratz) Mullett. John Mullett was born in Canton Berne, Switzerland, near the town of Richten, in January, 1809. Maria Ratz was born in the same place in December, 1808. They were married on October 13, 1832, and had five sons and three daughters. They came to America in 1848, and were forty-eight days on the sea in a sailing vessel. They spent the winter in Rochester, New York, and the next spring came to Licking county, living there a year, when they moved to Columbus and Mr. Mullett worked in a brick yard. He then worked one year in building the National

road from Washington, D. C., to the Mississippi river. In the fall of 1853 he moved to Putnam county and located on section 28 of Liberty township, where he entered eighty acres of government land, all in the woods. They were compelled to follow a blazed trail to Glandorf and Ottawa. Many wild animals and game were found in the vicinity. Mr. Mullett and some of his sons helped to make the grade of the Nickel Plate railroad in 1856, working for one dollar a day, and by this means earned much-needed money to pay on the farm. He was at one time road supervisor. It cost one dollar to get his commission and at the close of the year he received just one dollar for salary. John Mullett died on January 19, 1892, nine days before his eighty-third birthday. At that time he had forty-eight grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren.

George Mullett is one of eight children, the others being John, Maria, David, Jacob, Barbara, all born in Switzerland, William and Elizabeth. All are now deceased, except George and Elizabeth. Elizabeth is the wife of Charles Ellsworth and lives in Ithaca, Michigan.

George Mullett was married on April 15, 1875, to Matilda Wirth, who was born in Liberty township, the daughter of Samuel and Magdalena (Bauer) Wirth.

Samuel Wirth and wife were natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, but were married in America and lived near Elm Center, Liberty township, Putnam county. Mr. Wirth was a lifelong farmer after his marriage, though he did railroad construction work before his marriage.

After George Mullett married, he spent twelve years farming on his father's farm. He bought eighty acres in section 5, Liberty township, in 1887, where he has since lived. When he bought the farm, there was an old log house and about forty acres cleared. He has built a new house, cleared the land, drained it and now has a splendid farm. He bought twenty acres more at forty-five dollars an acre in 1899. Now it is worth several times that much.

To George and Matilda (Wirth) Mullett have been born four children, three of whom are living, Henry E., George R. and Albert Samuel. Edith B. died at the age of fifteen. Henry E., born on March 24, 1876, married Ida May Leinsetter, and has three children, Alvin, Bertha and Clarence, lives on a farm near his father; George R., July 30, 1878, and lives at home; Albert S., August 30, 1885, and also lives at home. Mrs. Mullett, the mother of these children, died on February 12, 1909. She was a quiet, unassuming woman, of a cheerful disposition and a faithful member of the Evangelical

Lutheran church, living according to the teachings of her faith. Mr. Mullett himself is a member of the Lutheran church.

He is a member of the Democratic party and has always been held in the highest esteem by all his neighbors.

HENRY JOSEPH HERMILLER.

Usually the finest words that can be collected to be said of a man are those epitomizing a life history after he has passed from this life. Among the progressive and industrious farmers of any community those citizens are always admired most who take an interest, not only in the welfare of the present, but also in the development of better conditions of future generations. The position of school trustee is an honorable one and a man trusted by the community with this responsible position is deserving of no little praise. He discharges his duties to the good of future generations and is honored long after his work is ended. All this may be said by way of preface to the sketch of Henry Joseph Hermiller, for six years the efficient school trustee of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Henry Joseph Hermiller was born on February 14, 1862, in Ottawa township, the son of Bernard and Bernardina (Nadler) Hermiller and a brother of F. B. Hermiller, whose sketch, found elsewhere in this volume, gives further facts of the parental history.

Henry J. Hermiller lived at home until maturity and was then married, shortly before his twenty-fifth birthday, to Elizabeth Gerdeman. She was born south of Glandorf, Putnam county, the daughter of John D. and Anna (Recker) Gerdeman. She is a sister of Andrew Gerdeman, whose sketch, found elsewhere in the pages of this volume, gives the history of her parents.

After Mr. Hermiller's marriage he moved to the farm where he now lives. He owns eighty acres at home and one hundred and sixty-five and one-half acres in Pleasant township. He had a splendid house built the year before his marriage and remodeled in 1913, it now being thoroughly modern. He also built a large barn and raised a high grade of live stock.

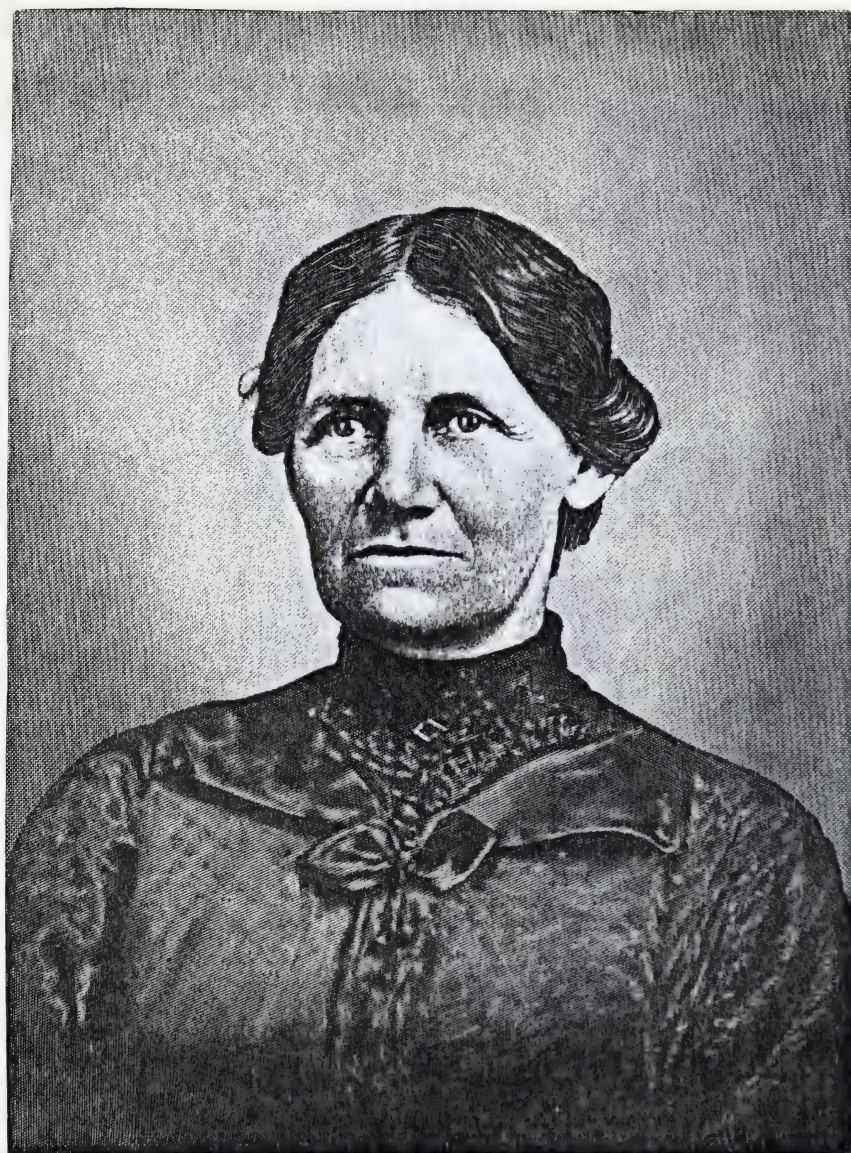
To Henry Joseph and Elizabeth (Gerdeman) Hermiller six children have been born: Minnie, who is the wife of John Kreinbrink, and lives one-half mile south of her father's home, is the mother of two children, Helen and Paul; Harry, born on January 8, 1891; Laura, born on April 14, 1895; Vincent, born on January 16, 1899; Pauline, born on December 11, 1902, and



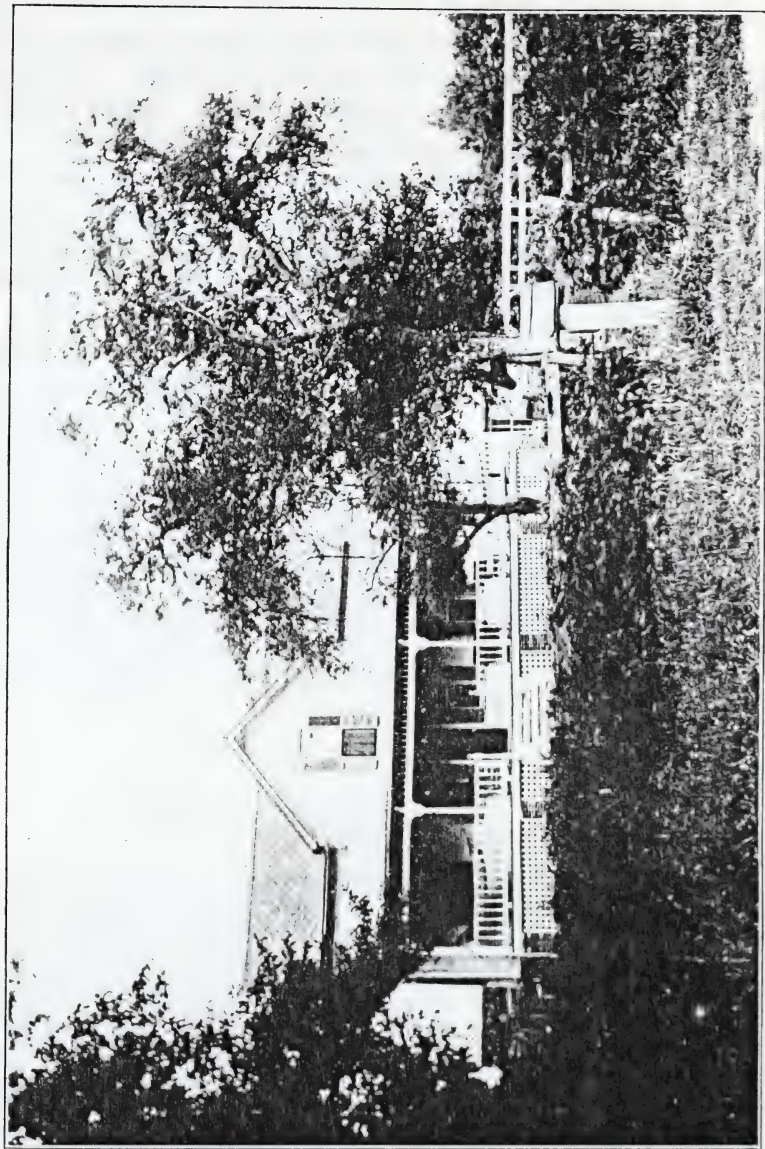
H. J. Hemmiller



James M. Smith



Mrs. H. J. Hermiller



RESIDENCE OF MRS. H. J. HERMILLER.

May, born on December 11, 1902, the two latter being twins. All of the children except Minnie are still at home.

When Henry J. Hermiller left his home to work among his machinery and in his saw-mill, no greater caution could have been given him than that in the beautiful quotation, "Watch, for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man cometh." In perfect health, in high spirits, full of ambition and happy, he left his home with the caution of his faithful wife to be very careful, as she had a premonition of danger. While sawing wood on a saw that was being run by a gasoline engine, a belt slipped on the machinery, and when Mr. Hermiller attempted to adjust the belt his coat sleeve was caught in a fly-wheel, he was drawn into the machinery and met almost instant death. He met his death on April 3, 1915, at the age of fifty-three years, and was buried in the Ottawa Catholic cemetery. He leaves behind him to mourn their loss a loving wife, two sons, four daughters and many sincere and loyal friends.

During his life Mr. Hermiller served six years as township trustee. He was a member of the Democratic party. He and his family were members of the SS. Peter and Paul Catholic church at Ottawa. He was also a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio and the Aid Society. He was an enterprising and successful farmer, a credit to the community where he lived and in which he was extremely popular. He was known everywhere for his honesty and genial disposition.

CHESTER L. SIMON.

Chester L. Simon stands out in the agricultural arena whose life has been one of untiring activity and has been crowned with a rather unusual degree of success in his chosen vocation. By his straightforward, honorable course, Mr. Simon has prospered in the world. While he has prospered he has retained the respect and confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens. His life is a splendid example of what an American youth, endowed with common sense, energy and determination, can accomplish. Mr. Simon comes from a very old family of Putnam county, one that has always stood for honesty, frugality and industry, and one that has always been admired and respected for its many good works.

Chester L. Simon was born on January 28, 1878, in Greensburg town-

ship, on a farm. He is the son of Lewis and Jennie (Apger) Simon. Lewis Simon has long been one of the leading farmers of Greensburg township, but is now living retired. He was born in Putnam county on April 24, 1838, and was the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon. John P. Simon was born in Germany, on the Rhine, and was there married to Savilla Genshimer, also a native of Germany, born in 1812. Thirteen children were born to this marriage, as follow: John, a farmer near Dupont, Ohio; Catherine and Philip, who died young; Lewis, the father of Chester L.; Jacob, who died in childhood; Barbara, the wife of Michael Rinkle, of Dupont; Louisa, deceased; Sophia, who married Rev. Philip Kesler, of Dupont; Mrs. A. L. Hauck, of Ottawa; Anna, the wife of W. J. Varner, of Greensburg township; Savilla, who married J. W. Purnell, of Greensburg township; Elizabeth, deceased, and John Adam, who died at the age of ten years.

After coming to the United States, John P. and Savilla Simon located in Philadelphia, but subsequently removed to Richland county, Ohio, where they were pioneers and where they lived for some time. They located in Putnam county in 1836, where he purchased a tract of land in the woods and where he built a house of logs. They lived on the farm until 1863, when John P. Simon moved to Ottawa and there engaged in the mercantile business, in which he was very successful. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and belonged to the lodge at Defiance, Ohio. Later, he became a charter member of the lodge at Kalida. For many years he was a commissioned officer in the state militia. Before the Civil War, he was a stanch Democrat, but later became independent in politics. He died on April 29, 1888. At this time, he was a member of the Presbyterian church. His first wife, who was a member of the Lutheran church, died in 1856. He, subsequently, married Mrs. Margaret M. Landis, who bore him one son, Adam, in 1859. John P. Simon was married, a third time, to Mrs. Margaret Hedges, who died on March 25, 1895.

Chester L. Simon's father, Lewis Simon, has been twice married. He was married the first time on April 13, 1861, to Barbara M. Dangler, the daughter of George and Fannie (Fender) Dangler. Four children were born to this union, Anna, who married H. J. Kirkendall; Veronica, who married George Ridenour; John A. and Barbara M., who died in infancy. Mrs. Barbara Simon died on May 11, 1868, and Mr. Simon was married a second time, on March 18, 1870, to Jennie Apger, the daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Apger, and a native of Carroll county, Ohio, born on February 10, 1847. To this marriage were born seven children, Mary L., who died on October 31, 1876; Charles E., Chester L., the subject of this sketch;

Ora A., Lewis W., Blanche, Ralph B. and an infant that died unnamed. Lewis Simon is still living on the farm, although his age has prevented active work for several years. He is a member of the Masonic lodge No. 325, at Ottawa.

Chester L. Simon's mother, the second wife of Lewis Simon, is descended from illustrious ancestors. Her father, John R. Apger, was born in New Jersey in 1816, the son of Isaac Apger, a native of New Jersey and of English descent. Isaac Apger was a pioneer farmer of Carroll county, Ohio, and moved to Wood county in 1847. He died in this county some time in the fifties. John R. Apger was educated in New Jersey and was reared as a farmer. He learned the shoemaker trade and worked at it off and on. He married Elizabeth Atchley in 1837, a daughter of Isaac and Anna (Van Horn) Atchley, natives of New Jersey, who later removed to New York. To this union were born seven children: Mary C.; Mrs. Lewis Simon; Marion N.; Isaac N., deceased; Anderson S., who was a soldier in the Civil War; Alletty A., deceased, and Elizabeth, also deceased. Mrs. Elizabeth Apger was born in New Jersey, in 1812, and moved with her parents to New York, where she was married. Mr. Apger settled in Carroll county in 1865, where he farmed for ten years and then moved to Wood county. Here he entered a tract of land, which he cleared and improved. In the meantime he taught school. Mrs. John R. Apger died March 25, 1865, and Mr. Apger was married a second time, in Wood county, in 1866, to Mrs. Matilda Wyckoff, and four children were born to this last marriage, Benton, Earl J., Cloise and Blanche. Mr. Apger was a Democrat in politics. He died on May 12, 1882, and at this time was an active and devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Chester L. Simon was educated in the Greensburg township public schools and farmed on his father's farm until he was married. His marriage took place on January 30, 1898, when he was united to Maude Jenkins, the daughter of David and Nancy (Sackett) Jenkins, of Continental, Ohio. After their marriage, Mr. Simon remained on the homestead for a time and then moved to a farm of eighty acres in section 33 of Palmer township. Forty acres of this land was available for farming. This tract formerly belonged to Chester L. Simon's father. Mr. Simon had a house built before moving to the farm and a barn also, and then fenced the land, drained it and cleared twenty-seven acres.

To Chester L. and Maude (Jenkins) Simon three children were born: Edna, Gale and Lowell.

Mrs. Maude (Jenkins) Simon died in January, 1908, and in March,

1911, Mr. Simon was married a second time, to Carrie Halbgwoks, the daughter of John Halbgwoks, of Monroe township, Putnam county. No children have been born to this second marriage.

Of Mr. Simon's children by his first marriage, Edna attends high school at Continental and Lowell attends school in Greensburg township.

Chester L. Simon is identified with the Democratic party, but is more or less independent in voting. Mrs. Simon is a member of the United Brethren church at Forest Grove.

Chester L. Simon has a well-kept farm. He is progressive in his ideas and is rated in the community as a very good farmer. He is highly respected and belongs to one of the oldest families in Putnam county.

CHRIST STEFFEN.

The desire for home and comfort enables men to endure bravely almost any privation or misfortune. When success has come and the hardest struggle is over, men look back and remember between smiles and tears all the incidents, happy and sad, of the struggle. Christ Steffen, a farmer of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, has made a brave fight to attain his present degree of success.

Christ Steffen was born in 1852, in Germany. At the age of six months he came to America with his parents, Jacob and Gertrude Steffen. They came to Tiffin, Ohio, and lived there until his parents died. The father died soon after coming to this country and, seven years later, the mother died.

Christ Steffen was cared for during his childhood by his relatives, who moved near to Bavaria, Ohio, two years later, and there he received his education, attending the public schools until he was twelve years of age. After this he lived with a sister and her husband at Kalida until he grew to manhood.

Christ Steffen was married in 1877, at Glandorf, to Veronica Hueve, who was born at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, the daughter of Barney and Theresia (Winkelman) Hueve. Barney Hueve was born in Hanover, Germany, who came to the United States with his parents about the age of eighteen, and settled at Glandorf about the year 1840. Barney Hueve and wife lived at Glandorf all their lives. He was a farmer and also operated a brick yard at this place. About a year after Mr. Steffen's marriage, he and his wife moved to Liberty township, where they bought eighty acres of land,

all in woods and very swampy. That was about thirty-eight years ago, and at that time deer were to be seen, and wild turkeys were as common as tame turkeys are now. Mr. Steffen cleared and drained his land, a tremendous undertaking, and developed, out of this eighty acres, a good farm. He now has the original acres, and has added two hundred acres more, all clear of encumbrance. Mr. Steffen has been reasonably free from misfortunes and has worked and managed carefully for his present success. He clearly remembers the early days and the work, hardships and privations of those times.

To Christ and Veronica (Hueve) Steffen seven children have been born, Amos, Mollie, Nora, Frances, Alexander, Leo and Jerome. Amos married Nora Heinel and lives in Van Buren township, who have two children, Clement and Gladys; Mollie is the wife of Sebastian Schieber, a farmer of Palmer township, and they have three children, Rosa, Urban and Albert; Alex was married, first, to Adeline Schmenk, who died, leaving one daughter, Alfreda. Alex afterward married Bertha Noirot, and lives in Palmer township; Nora is the wife of John Steffes, a farmer of Palmer township, and they have two children, Isabelle and Leonard, and Frances is the wife of Charles Burkhart and lives in Defiance.

Christ Steffen is a member of the Democratic party. He and his family are devoted and loyal members of the St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City and contribute liberally to the support of this denomination. Christ Steffen and wife and their family are prominent in the community where they live, being interested in all good works and taking an active part in promoting them.

MARTIN BALL.

Although Martin Ball represents the third generation of the Ball family in America, his father and his grandfather were born in Germany. Martin Ball himself, therefore, is the first generation of the Ball family born in this country. Martin Ball owns forty acres of land in Palmer township, which he received from his father. Here he has erected buildings and otherwise improved the land in many particulars. Aside from the forty acres which Mr. Ball owns, he also leases and farms eighty acres which belong to his brother, George, of North Creek. Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Ball was engaged in farming land adjoining the farm upon which he now lives, and which he has since purchased.

Martin Ball was born on his father's farm in Palmer township, where

John Ball now lives, on October 18, 1868. His parents were Ferdinand and Emeline (Gross) Ball, the former of whom was born on August 25, 1825, in Germany, and who came to America with his parents, Barney and Mary M. Ball, when very young. Barney and Mary M. Ball settled on a farm in Stark county, and later moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, and settled on forty acres which had been school land. Here they lived the remainder of their lives. Their children were Barney, George, Mathias, John and Ferdinand. All of these children are now deceased, with the exception of John. Ferdinand Ball married Emeline Gross, May 13, 1845. She was a native of Luxemburg, Germany, born on January 10, 1831, and came to America with her parents when very young. They also settled in Stark county, Ohio. She was reared and educated there, and after her marriage moved with her husband to Putnam county. Ferdinand Ball had learned the blacksmith trade and established a shop on his farm. He devoted a part of his time to blacksmithing and a part to farming. By hard work, he increased his original farm of forty acres to about two hundred acres. He also acquired a farm of forty acres in Monroe township. In later years he retired from blacksmithing and devoted practically all of his time to farming. During the last year of the Civil War he enlisted in the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and rendered commendable service. At the close of the war he returned to Putnam county. He took an active interest in the civic welfare of the county during his lifetime, but, nevertheless, was indifferent to politics. He devoted most of his time to his farm and the welfare of his family. Before his death, which occurred on January 16, 1910, he distributed his farms among his children. Mrs. Ferdinand Ball died on December 26, 1895. She was a loyal and faithful helpmate and did her part in behalf of the family fortune and future. Ferdinand Ball and his wife were highly esteemed people. Their children were Henry, John, Mary, George, William, Catherine (deceased), Susanna and Martin, the subject of this sketch. Henry and John live on the old homestead, in Palmer township; George is a merchant at North Creek; William is a farmer in Palmer township; Mary is now a Mrs. Engleman, of Palmer township; Susanna is unmarried and lives on the home place. The late Ferdinand Ball and his wife for years attended the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria, and later attended St. Joseph's church at North Creek. Mr. Ball gave the three acres of ground upon which St. Joseph's church is constructed. He had also contributed liberally to its support. Both he and his wife died on the farm where they had settled.

Martin Ball was educated in the old district No. 3 school of Palmer

township. He lived on his father's farm until his marriage, which took place on January 11, 1898. Mr. Ball was married to Jennie Mollette, the daughter of Henry and Jane (Crago) Mollette, the former of whom was a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and the latter of Napoleon, Ohio. They were married at Napoleon and after their marriage lived at McClure. Subsequently, they moved to Palmer township, and in January, 1905, moved to Florida. They had six children: Philip, Mrs. Jennie Ball, Edward, Alma, William and Grace. Philip, Alma and Edward live in Henry county; Grace lives in Nassau county, Florida, with her parents.

Martin and Jennie (Mollette) Ball have eight children, all of whom are living at home. They are as follow: Gertrude, born on September 3, 1899; Guy, August 16, 1901; Hildegard, March 1, 1904; Virgil, August 18, 1905; Ferdinand, April 3, 1908; Leo, February 5, 1910; Blanche, July 30, 1911, and Magdalene, September 8, 1913.

Martin Ball is an able citizen in every respect. He is a substantial farmer, and a Democrat. The Ball family belongs to the St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek, and are prominent members of this church. Those of the children who go to school attend district school No. 3 in Palmer township.

PETER WILLIAMS.

Among those who are eminently entitled to a place in a work of this character is Peter Williams, a well-known farmer of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Williams has performed well his part in the drama of civilization and has led a life that is exemplary in every respect. He has set an excellent example to the younger generation, and has been a leader in his county in all matters pertaining to the upbuilding of the community. He has done what good he could in all lines and has labored not only for the advancement of his own interests, but for the welfare and advancement of his section of the county. Mr. Williams is well known in his township, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of all his neighbors.

Peter Williams was born on December 19, 1861, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is a son of Michael and Mary Ann (Frankhart) Williams, who were both natives of Germany. Mrs. Mary Ann (Frankhart) Williams came from Germany with her parents to America, and the family located on a farm in Seneca county, Ohio. The family consisted of the following children: Nicholas, Mary Ann, Jane, John, Catherine and John N.

Michael Williams came from Germany in an early day and also located in Seneca county, Ohio, and after his marriage to Mary Ann Frankhart, settled on a farm in that county, where he lived for a number of years, and later moved to Putnam county to a farm of eighty acres. To this farm he subsequently added more acreage from time to time until he owned one hundred and twenty acres of good farming land. Michael Williams and wife were the parents of the following children: Tillie, Margaret, John, Jacob, Peter, Mary, Michael, Catherine Emma, Joseph, and two who died in infancy. Tillie and Joseph are also deceased. The mother of these children died in Landick, Ohio, while the father died in Palmer township, Putnam county. All the family were devout members of the Catholic church. Michael M. Williams was a Democrat and served as township treasurer for a number of years.

Peter Williams was educated in the schools of Palmer township and, before his marriage, worked on a farm. He also operated a saw-mill in partnership with his brother, John. This mill was located in Palmer township, and was operated for a number of years. Mr. Williams was married on September 12, 1893, to Alice L. King, the daughter of Solomon and Mary Katherine (Liese) King.

Solomon King was born in Fairfield county, Ohio; his wife was born in Sandusky, Ohio, and after their marriage they moved to Putnam county, Ohio, where they lived on a farm until Mr. King's death. His widow afterward moved to Wood county, Ohio, and from there to Lucas county, Ohio, and still later to Ontario, Canada, where she is still living. Solomon King and wife were the parents of the following children: Alice, Malinda, Ida Jane, Otho, Charles, Champ, Nora P. and Fred. Of this number Alice, Malinda, Charles and Nora are deceased. Those living make their home in Canada.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Williams moved to a farm consisting of thirty-five and one-half acres in section 9, of Palmer township. This farm Mr. Williams purchased before his marriage, and here he erected buildings and cleared and improved the land, bringing the farm to a high state of cultivation. Peter and Alice L. (King) Williams were the parents of two children, Howard P., born on August 16, 1895, and Glen W., on October 17, 1897. The mother of these children died March 5, 1914, and was buried in the North Creek cemetery. She was eminently respected in her neighborhood, a good mother and a faithful and devoted wife.

Mr. Williams still lives on the farm where he settled soon after his marriage. His two sons assist their father on the farm. They are bright

and industrious boys, of whom their father is justly proud. Mr. Williams is engaged in general farming and has met with a very fair degree of success in his operations, being a man of sterling integrity, and known to be a stanch and honorable citizen, respected by all.

Mr. Williams is a Democrat in politics, served his fellow citizens as township assessor for three years, and has also served on the school board of his township. His two sons were educated in the township schools, and Howard was a student in the high school at Miller City. The family are earnest and devout members of the Catholic church, in which denomination they are deeply interested.

HENRY BURKHART.

The Burkhart family is a very old one in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Representatives of the family came to this county when it was a swamp and wilderness and developed good farms. Henry Burkhardt's father farmed the same land and lived in the same house in which Henry Burkhart and his wife now live. Henry Burkhart himself owns a splendid farm of eighty acres in Palmer township, which was deeded to him by his father. It comprises a part of his father's estate. Henry Burkhart has always lived here, and has always occupied the old homestead. He applies himself industriously and intelligently as a farmer and is a hard-working, conscientious citizen. Henry Burkhart and wife had the misfortune to lose three children in 1913. It was a sad event and one which called forth the sympathy of all their neighbors and friends. The Burkharths are not only good farmers, but they are highly respected citizens.

Henry Burkhart was born on April 22, 1868, in Palmer township. His parents were John and Gertrude (Pfeiffer) Burkhart.

Henry Burkhart was educated in Palmer township, and grew up on his father's farm. He materially assisted in the development and improvement of this farm, and during his youth performed at least his share of the work on the farm. He applied himself industriously to tasks allotted to him.

Henry Burkhart was married on September 17, 1897, to Mary Klinshirn, daughter of John and Mary (Kramer) Klinshirn. Mary was one of eleven children born to her parents. Henry and Mary (Klinshirn) Burkhart have had nine children, three of whom are deceased: Herman, the eldest, deceased; Viola, deceased; Cletis, deceased; Herman was the first, Viola the fourth and Cletis the eighth child born to the parents. The living

children are Joseph, Delphine, Loretta, Albert, Virgil and Clarence. Albert and Loretta are attending school.

Henry Burkhart's father, John Burkhart, was born in Germany and came to America at the age of twelve years, with his parents. They settled in Lorain county, Ohio, where he was educated and where he was married to Gertrude Pfeiffer. After their marriage, they followed farming for a time in that county, and later they removed to Palmer township, Putnam county, where he purchased eighty acres of land. This tract was increased by the addition of eighty acres in section 3, at a time when this part of Putnam county was a dense wilderness, heavily timbered and with scarcely any roads. It was necessary to overcome many obstacles to succeed in farming. John Burkhart cleared and drained the land and erected the buildings. At the time of his arrival in Putnam county the land was especially swampy. Later he purchased thirty acres more, in section 12, and at the time of his death he had a total of one hundred and ninety acres. He lived a life of great activity and unfailing industry. During the latter years of his life he lived retired, having divided most of his land among his children. He passed away on April 24, 1903. His wife, however, had died many years previously, October 5, 1889. They had twelve children: John, Elizabeth and Nicholas, the three eldest children, are deceased; Christ is now living in Florida; Mrs. Catherine Jackman lives at Fostoria, Ohio; Peter is deceased; Henry is the subject of this sketch; William lives in Henry county; Joseph is deceased; Mrs. Mary Little lives in Palmer township; Frank is deceased, and one child died in infancy.

Henry Burkhart's paternal grandparents were natives of Prussia. His grandfather was Nicholas Burkhart, who came to America with his family and settled in Lorain county, where they lived for many years, and where they died. They were sterling German citizens and pioneers in Lorain county, having been considered among the substantial citizens of their day and generation. They had three sons and three daughters, all of whom are now deceased. The sons were Christian, Peter and John.

Henry Burkhart's maternal grandparents were also natives of Prussia. The maternal grandfather came to America with his family and settled in Lorain county. Their daughter, Gertrude Pfeiffer, was very young at the time. Mrs. Gertrude (Pfeiffer) Burkhart had been born in the same province as her father. Mrs. Burkhart's parents were both born in Germany. Her maternal grandparents were Henry Kramer and wife, natives of Germany, who came to America when their daughter Mary, the mother of Mr. Burkhart's wife, was but twelve years old. They settled in Lorain county,

and there died on a farm. Mrs. Burkhart's parents married in Lorain county, and after their marriage moved to Henry county, where they settled on a farm. They first owned forty acres and later sold this farm and purchased one hundred acres in Pleasant township. Here John Klinshirn lived until his death. He was a Democrat in politics and a member of the Sacred Heart church at New Bavaria, Henry county. His wife is still living on the old homestead in Henry county, and is a member of the same church. His death occurred in 1900, when he was sixty-three years old. Mrs. Klinshirn is now about seventy-five years of age. She was born on December 8, 1839. Six of their eleven children are deceased. The deceased children are: John, who died in infancy, and a second child named John; Michael and Margaret, the fifth and sixth born; Peter, the eighth born, and Henry, the tenth born. George, the third child born, is living in Henry county, Ohio; Jacob, who was born after George, is living in Defiance county; Catherine, the seventh child, married a Mr. Westrick and lives in Henry county; Mary is the wife of Mr. Burkhart; Theresa, the youngest child, also married a Mr. Westrick, and lives in Henry county.

Henry Burkhart is a Democrat, but has never been especially active in politics, and is not active now. The family are members of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria. Mrs. Burkhart is a member of the Mothers' Society and prominent in its affairs. Henry Burkhart is a quiet and unassuming man, is a worthy citizen and is accorded this rank by his neighbors, with whom he is quite popular.

LAWRENCE SEIMET.

It must be interesting to note, in the series of personal sketches appearing in this volume, the varying conditions that have surrounded those whose careers are here given. An effort has been made to throw light upon the individuality of the individual and to bring into proper perspective the scheme of each career. Each man who strives to fulfill his part in connection with human life and human activities, deserves recognition whatever may be his field of endeavor. It is the function of a work of this nature to perpetuate, for future generations, an authentic record of those represented in these pages. No occupation is more important to our present scheme of society than that of farming and Lawrence Seimet is one of the leading farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Lawrence Seimet was born on April 19, 1870, near New Riegel, Ohio. He is the son of Nicholas and Elizabeth (Moreo) Seimet. Nicholas Seimet was born in the Duchy of Luxemburg, Germany, where his wife was also born in Germany. Nicholas Seimet came to America at the age of eighteen years. He learned the tailor's trade in Germany and was educated there. He had relatives near Delphos, Ohio, and came there to the home of his brother-in-law, Adam Stark, where he engaged in farming and also spent two seasons in Illinois as a farmer. He was married on January 24, 1861, to Elizabeth Moreo after which they moved to a farm near Delphos, where they lived for two years. Mr. Seimet then worked as a boatman on the canal and later moved to Henry county, Ohio, and lived on a farm of forty acres. He sold this farm and purchased eighty acres in Henry county which he later sold. About 1903 he moved to Leipsic, Ohio, where he purchased a house and lot, and where he lived for two years, and then moved to a farm of one hundred and sixteen acres in Van Buren township, Putnam county, Ohio, which he had previously purchased. He remained on this farm until 1912, at which time he sold it and moved again to Leipsic, where he purchased city property, and where he now lives retired.

Elizabeth Moreo came to America with her parents at the age of four years and settled at New Riegel, Ohio, Seneca county. She was one of a family of six children, the others being Lawrence, Andrew, Anna, Barbara and Julia. Nicholas Seimet was one of three children, John, who was born in Germany and died near Delphos, Ohio; Mrs. John Stark, who was born in Germany, came to America and settled near Delphos, Ohio, and Nicholas, who was the youngest.

To Nicholas and Elizabeth (Moreo) Seimet were born eight children, John, Andrew, Mary, Helena, Lawrence, Joseph, George and William. Joseph and George are deceased; Nicholas Seimet and wife are members of the St. Mary's Catholic church at Leipsic, Ohio. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on January 24, 1911. This celebration was attended by thirty-six children and grandchildren and other relatives.

Lawrence Seimet was educated in Henry county, Ohio. He left Seneca county with his parents at the age of two years, when they moved to Henry county and settled near Holgate. He lived on his father's farm of eighty acres, in Henry county, and here he spent his boyhood days. He remained on this farm for about thirty years.

Lawrence Seimet was married on October 26, 1890, to Christina Diemer, the daughter of Peter and Isabella (Zoll) Diemer. Peter Diemer was born on April 23, 1844, on a farm near New Bavaria. At the age of twenty years,

or in September, 1864, he enlisted in Company C, Fifty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until discharged. He was honorably discharged on July 11, 1865. He was married, in 1872, to Isabella Zoll and after his marriage, lived on a farm and also worked at the carpenter trade near New Bavaria, and while here erected a saw-mill and grist-mill and ran these for many years, or until the fall of 1911, when he moved to Leipsic and occupied property which he had previously purchased. The property is located on Sugar street. Peter and Isabella Diemer have had four children, John, Mrs. Mary Zenz, Charles and Mrs. Christina Seimet.

Peter Diemer was a member of the Catholic church and was always a faithful attendant. He served as assessor of Marion township, Henry county, for seven years. Mr. Diemer contracted the fever in the swamps of the south during the Civil War, which afterward caused chronic rheumatism, from which he suffered for many years and finally caused his death. He was highly respected in the community where he lived.

After his marriage, Lawrence Seimet remained on his father's farm, in Henry county, for five years. During this time, he worked on shares. He purchased his first farm of forty acres in Palmer township and moved to it on December 15, 1904, which farm he rented for three years previous to moving upon it. In January, 1908, Mr. Seimet acquired forty additional acres in section 15, and about the same time also purchased thirty-three acres in section 26, making a total of one hundred and thirteen acres. He devotes his attention to general farming and raises a good quality of stock. He has made many improvements upon this farm, such as fencing, draining and the erecting of commodious outbuildings. The residence has been remodeled and a new barn was built in 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Seimet have taken Loretta Sheeley, a second cousin of Mr. Seimet, to rear. She became a member of the Seimet family when seven years of age and has been with Mr. and Mrs. Seimet since that time. She is attending school at the present time. Mr. and Mrs. Seimet have no children of their own.

Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Seimet are members of St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. Fraternally, Mr. Seimet is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. Mrs. Seimet is a member of the Mothers' Society of the St. Nicholas's church. Politically, Mr. Seimet is a Democrat. He served as township supervisor of Marion township, Henry county, for two years and has served four years as director of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company. He also served and is now serving as township trustee, which office he has held for four years.

DANIEL HOFFMAN.

The thirty years which Daniel Hoffman has spent in Putnam county, Ohio, have been engaged in agricultural pursuits, and with a success which speaks well for his efforts. Coming to this county in 1892, he has accumulated, as the result of his own efforts, a farm of three hundred and ninety-three acres of farm land in Liberty, Palmer and Ottawa townships, and the farmer who does this is certainly to be classed among the successful farmers of the county. Mr. Hoffman is one of the many German-American farmers of this county, and no doubt has inherited those sterling characteristics of his ancestors which are always conducive to thrift.

Daniel Hoffman, a son of Valentine and Wilhelmina (Schwartz) Hoffman, was born in Rheinpfalz, Germany, October 17, 1846. His parents came to America in the fall of 1851, and located in Pleasant township, Henry county, Ohio, and made that county their home the remainder of their lives.

Daniel Hoffman was five years of age when his parents came to America, where he was educated in Henry county, and where they located. After receiving such education as was given in his home schools, he worked on his father's farm until his marriage, and continued to live in Henry county for fourteen years after his marriage. He sold his farm in Henry county in 1892 and came to Putnam county, where he bought one hundred acres in the western part of the township, in sections 6 and 7. By good management and incessant industry, he has added to this until he is now the owner of three hundred and ninety-three acres, situated in three townships, two hundred and sixty of which is in Liberty township, all of which is well improved and in a high state of cultivation. He traded his farm in Allen county, Indiana, for eighty-three acres in Ottawa township, Putnam county, this state.

Daniel Hoffman was first married, in 1870, to Margaret Shall, who was born in Pleasant township, Henry county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Henry and Martha (Horning) Shall. Henry Shall was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, and his wife in Rheinpfalz. The first wife of Mr. Hoffman died in 1887, leaving five children, four sons and one daughter: Andrew, who died in 1889, at the age of seventeen; Henry, born on January 26, 1876, now living with his father; Charles, November 1, 1877, married Louise Rose, and has five children, Viola, Howard, Robert, Virgil and Albert Edward; George, February 13, 1880, who married Etta Violet Stall, and has four children, Harry, Walter, Olin and Vera; Wilhelmina, who first married Philip Desgranges, who died leaving her with three children, Cora, Ralph and Raymond. After the death of her first husband, Minnie married James Sugg, a

farmer of Palmer township, and has one child by this marriage, Mary Elizabeth. The living children of Daniel Hoffman by his second wife are in Putnam county with the exception of Charles, who lives in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Daniel Hoffman was married the second time on October 9, 1894, to Rosina Fike, and to this second union two children have been born, Cora, on September 2, 1895, and Ora, August 23, 1897. Mr. Hoffman is an independent voter and prefers to cast his ballot for men rather than for platforms, feeling that in so doing he is best serving the interests of good government. He is a man of great energy, and during his life of more than twenty-three years in this county, has won the respect and esteem of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

FRANK D. BALBAUGH.

The progress of Putnam county, Ohio, has been largely due to the untiring struggle and success of the German citizens who live in this county. Some residents have come with their fathers to wild homes in the great land of freedom; others have been born in Putnam county after the arrival of their parents, but all inhabitants born of German parents have proved splendid citizens, interested in the welfare of the community, loyal always to the country of their adoption. An enterprising citizen of Liberty township, of German descent, is Frank D. Balbaugh, who has been a resident of the county all his life.

Frank D. Balbaugh, the son of John P. and Christiana (Meyers) Balbaugh, was born on December 16, 1863, one-half mile north of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio. John P. Balbaugh was a native of Bavaria, Germany, and at the age of eighteen years came to America, locating in Putnam county shortly after coming here. He became a farmer in Putnam county, where he first bought land north of Ottawa, and later, in 1871, purchased land northeast of Elm Center. This land, in those early days, was all woods and water, with only a little dead timber on it. Here John P. Balbaugh built a log house and started in to make a home for himself and family in the wilderness, and succeeded in developing a splendid farm of eighty acres. Christina Meyers came from France, at the age of two years, with her German parents, who settled north of Ottawa. John P. Balbaugh and wife both died on the home farm near Elm Center; she in 1881, and he in 1892. They were the parents of ten children, of whom seven are living.

Frank D. Balbaugh has lived on the home place since 1871, receiving

his education in the schools of his neighborhood. On Thanksgiving Day, 1896, he was married to Minnie Heynes, the daughter of Frank and Anna M. (Schuler) Heynes. She was born at Leipsic and reared in that city. Her father was engaged in the saloon business in Leipsic until a year before his death. Frank Heynes was a native of Germany and Anna M. Schuler was born at Avon, Ohio, the daughter of Peter and Susan (Tisen) Schuler, who were natives of Germany and who lived near New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, until their death.

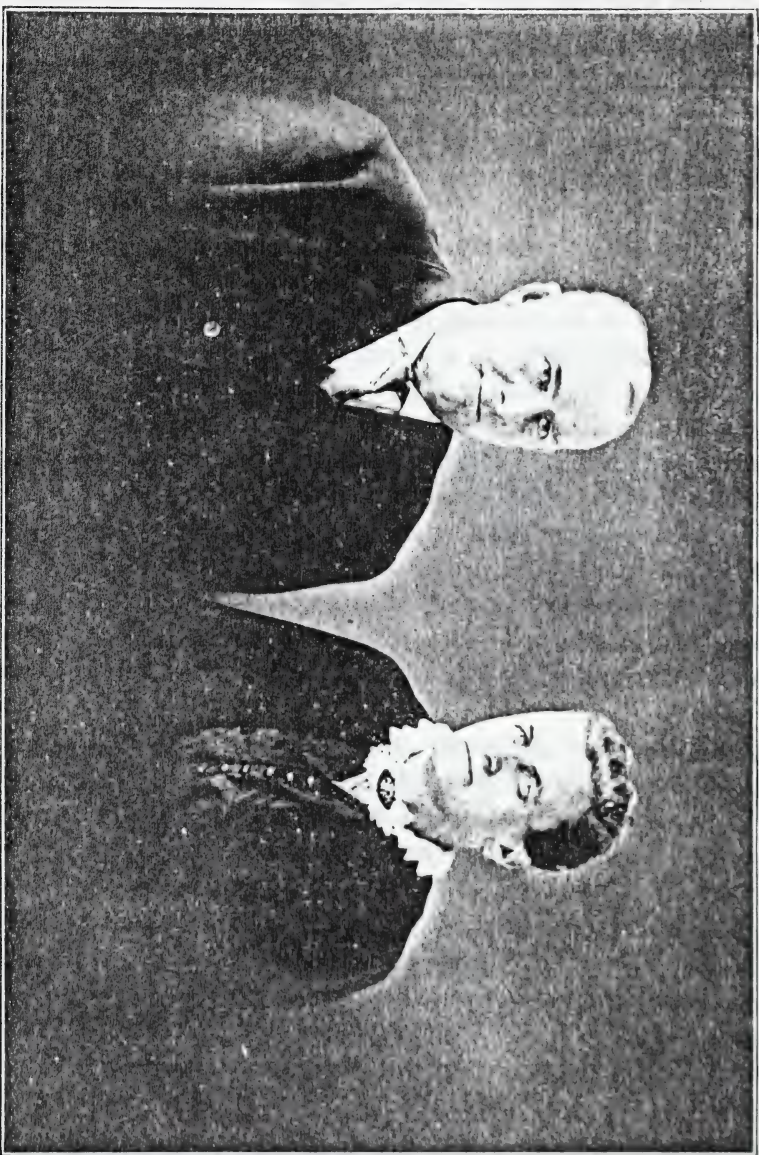
Frank Heynes moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, about 1887, and there his death occurred in 1889, after which time his widow and Mrs. Balbaugh lived in Scott county, Indiana, later returning to Cincinnati, and still later moving to Defiance, Ohio. Mrs. Heynes now lives in Indianapolis, Indiana. To Frank D. and Minnie (Heynes) Balbaugh six children have been born, Gertie, Alphonse, Harry, Emma, Frances and Robert.

Frank D. Balbaugh now owns a splendid farm of one hundred and twenty acres and is engaged in operating this land. Mr. Balbaugh is a member of the Democratic party, while he and his family are devout members of the Catholic church. They are held in high esteem in the community where they have lived for so many years.

GEORGE GORES.

Among the self-made, substantial and progressive citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is George Gores, who has made his home in this county since 1886. Born and reared in Germany, he did not come to this country until he was thirty-one years of age, and in a remarkably short time has built up a business which demonstrated that he had exceptional ability. For many years he was extensively engaged in the well-drilling and wind-pump business, an industry which he conducted with excellent results. Since 1900 he has devoted all of his time to farming, and now has probably the finest country home in the county and one of the most improved and best cultivated farms.

George Gores was born on October 23, 1850, at Huscheid, Rhein Province, Prussia. He attended the native schools of his Fatherland and worked on the home farm until 1881. In July of that year he came to America and first located at Fremont, Ohio. He remained here for two years and then moved to Auburn, Indiana, where he engaged in the tubular well business, continuing in that line in the vicinity of Auburn for two years. He then



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE GORES.

moved to New Bavaria, Ohio, where he remained until April, 1886, at which time he moved to Leipsic, in Putnam county. He built up a business in well drilling, which continued for many years, and was marked with unusual success. He was a pioneer in the business in this section of the state, his operations extending over Dekalb and Steuben counties, Indiana, as well as Putnam, Henry, Hancock, Defiance and Paulding counties, in Ohio. No man in his line conducted a larger business or was more successful in this section of the state.

After moving to Leipsic he became a partner in the Leipsic Machine Works, in 1892, and while connected with this firm for one year showed remarkable ability for management. He sold his interests in the machine works managing an extensive agency for the sale of agricultural implements and vehicles. While living in Leipsic he owned a handsome residence on South Easton street, and bought a farm of eighty acres a mile southwest of the town which was then in a dilapidated condition, but his energy was so untiring that he made it one of the best farms in Ohio. In 1889 he erected a good farm residence, and in 1895 he put up a large modern barn on the place. He put in a complete system of under-draining and spent a large amount of money in the improvement of the farm. In 1900 he moved from Leipsic to this farm and since then has devoted his entire attention to farming. He now has two hundred acres all in one tract and all under a high state of cultivation.

The beautiful country home of Mr. Gores has more modern improvements than most city residences. He has electric light wired from Leipsic, and his house is well lighted, with an eye both to convenience and beauty. It is heated by furnace and he has both hot and cold rain water and cold well water piped over the house. A unique convenience is the fact that he has hot water piped to the barn, so that he can give his stock warm water during the winter. In the way Mr. Gores has improved his home and grounds he has set the pace, and his neighbors have emulated his example, and now for two miles the road on which his house fronts is called the "Main street," and it is said that nowhere in the state is there such another row of fine country homes.

Mr. Gores was a promoter of the Mutual Telephone Company, of Leipsic, in 1901, of which he was president for several years. In 1908 he made a visit back to his old home country, and while there traveled over the route between Paris and Cologne, and saw Liege and all of the other places where the great war is now being fought. While living in Leipsic his progressive

ideas won the notice and hearty approbation of his fellow townsmen, and he was twice elected to the city council, in 1897 and again in 1899.

Mr. Gores was married on November 19, 1885, to Mary Hoffman, of New Bavaria, Ohio, and his wife has proved an able assistant in the business undertakings of her husband. She was born in Nackshein, Rhein Province, Prussia, on December 21, 1860, and came to America with her parents, John and Margaret (Kirst) Hoffman, in July, 1868; when she was seven years old. Her family located in Henry county, where they followed farming for the rest of their lives, and there she grew to womanhood. Mr. Gores and his wife are the parents of five children: John G. married Anna Wank and now lives on part of his father's farm; Anna S., the wife of Ferdinand Meyer, a farmer of this county; Katherine, Eva and George, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Gores have one grandchild, Elizabeth, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Meyer.

The family are all loyal members of the Catholic church, to which Mr. Gores is a liberal contributor. He is progressive, industrious, energetic and honorable, and has fought his own way to business success, and it can be truly said that he is one of the representative men of his county.

JOHN MILTON JONES.

A native of the great Buckeye state and one of the successful young farmers of Putnam county, who owns a splendid farm in Palmer township, is John Milton Jones, who, early in life, became an expert saw filer and who, until some years ago, worked at this trade for a large lumber company in Alabama. Since engaging in farming, Mr. Jones has proved conclusively that persistent and well-directed effort is the surest guarantee of success. John Milton Jones has become, within a comparatively brief period, one of the most successful farmers of Palmer township and he is today one of the best-known and most highly respected.

John Milton Jones was born on August 28, 1875, in Guernsey county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph and Malinda (Laming) Jones. Joseph Jones was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, and grew to young manhood on a farm in that county, where he was educated and married. From Guernsey county he moved to Illinois, after his marriage, and spent eight years on a farm. He then returned to Guernsey county, Ohio, and erected and conducted a saw-mill. This he operated for about two years and then came to Putnam county, locating on the present site of Continental. Here he built a saw-mill,

bringing the material with him from Guernsey county. He followed the saw-mill business for some time in other parts of the county and state where timber abounded. In 1911 he and part of his family moved to Nocatee, Florida, where he engaged as a saw filer for a large lumber and saw-mill company, being considered an expert at this business. He owns one large orange grove in Florida. His wife was born on September 10, 1856, in Guernsey county and was educated there.

John Milton Jones is the eldest of twelve children born to his parents. The others are Elizabeth, the wife of Celestian Noirot, of Palmer township; Mrs. Emma Horning, of New Bavaria; Charles, who lives in Alabama; Jesse, who lives at Salesville, Mississippi; Howard, who lives at Holmesville, Ohio; Edna, who lives at Coshocton, Ohio; Mrs. Blanche McKelrey, who lives in Orrville, Ohio; Ida and Clyde, twins, the former of Palmer township and the latter of Nocatee, Florida; Hazel and Walter, both of Nocatee. The parents of these children also live in Florida.

John Milton Jones was educated in the public schools of Continental and lived with his parents until about 1900, assisting his father on the farm and in the management of the saw-mill. He went to Alabama in 1900 and took employment with the Horseshoe Lumber Company as a saw filer, having learned this trade under the direction of his father. Mr. Jones remained with this company steadily for two years and then returned to Putnam county, Ohio, where he was married on November 30, 1902, to Seluta Brinkman, who was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, and is the daughter of Frederick and Mary E. (Champion) Brinkman. Mrs. Jones was educated in Palmer township, Putnam county.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Jones returned to Alabama with his wife and continued to follow saw filing as a trade. He also learned the millwright's trade and worked at this when he first returned south. In March, 1914, John M. Jones and wife returned to Putnam county. Mrs. Jones had inherited one-half of a one-hundred-and-sixty-acre farm, and her brother, George, had inherited the other half. Mr. Jones purchased the interest of his brother-in-law and now owns and farms one hundred and sixty acres. He erected a splendid new residence on this place in 1914 and made many other improvements. He had erected a new barn in 1913. In fact, many substantial improvements have been made under the able direction and supervision of Mr. Jones. He has applied himself diligently to the development and improvement of the farm. One child, Ardath, was born to John Milton and Seluta (Brinkman) Jones on November 3, 1905.

John Milton Jones votes the Republican ticket in national affairs, but generally votes the Democratic ticket in local politics. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Methodist church. John Milton Jones is an expert millwright and saw filer. He is also a splendid farmer, active, intelligent and much admired by the people of Palmer township.

ALLEN HUYSMAN.

Among the young men of Putnam county who have achieved a marked degree of success in commercial life, is the gentleman whose name forms the caption for this review: "Keep abreast of the times" is one of the heretofore unpublished mottoes which this young man has been following, and, by careful management, well-directed energy and unswerving loyalty to recognized fair-and-square business dealings, he has forged to the front and today carries the distinction of being one of the most successful business men throughout this region. Being a man of honorable methods and strictly progressive in his views, he holds the confidence of the people of his community and is well worthy of mention in a work of this nature.

Allen Huysman was born in Monterey township, this county, on January 17, 1889, and is the son of Cornelius and Lydia (Semer) Huysman. Cornelius Huysman's life record is given elsewhere in this work. His mother, Lydia (Semer) Huysman was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, and came to Putnam county, Ohio, with her parents when she was a little child but two years old. Allen's grandfather was born in Holland and later, coming to this country, was one of the early settlers in Monterey township, Putnam county, where he farmed his entire life and died in 1894. The grandmother died a few years previous to the death of her husband.

Allen Huysman received his early education in the Spangler school, in Van Wert county, and was under the guardianship of his Aunt Catherine Osenga, on account of the death of his mother on January 21, 1889, at which time he was but four days old. After finishing his schooling, Allen Huysman was married, on October 19, 1911, to Irene Fierstos, a daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Hermann) Fierstos, whose parents are now living in retirement in Ottoville, this county, and who were formerly engaged in farming. To Allen and Irene (Fierstos) Huysman have been born one child, a daughter, Marie.

For about three years, Mr. Huysman was engaged in the hardware and

implement business, under the name of George Wannemacher & Company, and was financially interested in this concern. Having sold out his interests in this business, he purchased a site in Ottoville, this county, for the purpose of carrying on business as a dealer in automobiles. The building was not suitable and after enlarging and remodeling it for the purpose to which he intended using it, he secured the agency for the Ford automobiles and the Ford Motor Company of Detroit, Michigan, having found a hustling agent for their product in this part of Ohio, assigned him as exclusive agent for the townships of Monterey, Jennings and Jackson, in Putnam county, also Jackson township in Van Wert county. In addition to the selling of automobiles, Mr. Huysman conducts an automobile livery and garage, and does electrical work in connection with automobiles.

Allen Huysman is a staunch Republican, and though not active in politics, is aggressive in advocating those principles of the party which affect the public welfare. He does not claim affiliation to any particular church, but his wife is an active and devout member of the Catholic church of Ottoville. Personally Mr. Huysman holds the respect of the entire community in which he lives and, being a man of genial disposition, makes friends easily and has the faculty of keeping them. His marked ability as a salesman, identifies him in this vicinity as a man possessing keen ability, and his success has been the result of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens who found him worthy in every respect.

JOHN A. SIMON.

The late John Simon belongs to that class of men who win life's battles by sheer force of personality and determination, coupled with soundness of judgment and keen discrimination. In whatever the late John Simon undertook he showed himself to be a man of ability and honor. He was always ready to lend his aid in defending principles affecting public good and ably and conscientiously served the people of his community. Mr. Simon was prominent in the political and civic life of Palmer township, where he lived for many years, and, having descended from one of the old pioneer families of this section of the state of Ohio, he was entitled to rank as a representative citizen. The late John A. Simon is remembered by a host of friends, who revere his memory and who yet do honor to the good name which he built up in Putnam county.

John A. Simon was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, on his father's farm on March 23, 1866. He was the son of Lewis and Margaret (Dangler) Simon, the former of whom was born in Putnam county on April 24, 1838, and who in turn was the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon. John P. Simon was born in Germany, on the Rhine, and there was married to Savilla Genshimer, a native of Germany, born in 1812. John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon were the parents of the following children: John, a farmer of Dupont, Ohio; Catherine and Philip, both deceased; Lewis, the father of the late John Simon, the subject of this sketch; Jacob, who died in childhood; Barbara, wife of Michael Rinkle, of Dupont; Louisa, deceased; Sophia, who married the Rev. Philip Kesler, of Dupont; Mrs. A. L. Hauck, of Ottawa; Anna, who married W. J. Varner, of Greensburg township; Savilla, who married J. W. Parnell, of Greensburg township; Elizabeth, deceased, and John Adam, who died young.

John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon emigrated to the United States and first located at Philadelphia, where they remained a short time. Later they removed to Richland county, Ohio, where they were pioneers and where they purchased a tract of land. After living there until 1836 they removed to Putnam county, Ohio, where he purchased a tract of land in the woods, built a log house, cleared and drained his land. They lived on this farm until 1863, when, on account of failing health, John P. Simon moved to Ottawa, where he was engaged in the mercantile business. John P. Simon was a Mason, having joined the lodge at Kalida. He was a commissioned officer in the state militia and was a foremost citizen in the community where he lived and stood for law and order. He died on April 29, 1888, at which time he was a devout member of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Savilla (Genshimer) Simon died in 1856, and subsequently Mr. John P. Simon married Mrs. Margaret M. Landis, who bore him one son, Adam, in 1859. After her death, Mr. Simon married Mrs. Margaret Hedges, who died on March 25, 1895.

The late John A. Simon's father, Lewis Simon, a venerable resident of this county, was reared on a farm and educated in the old-fashioned log schoolhouse. He was married to Margaret M. Dangler on April 13, 1861. She was the daughter of George and Fannie (Fender) Dangler, and by this union four children were born: Anna, who married H. J. Kirkendall; Veronica, who married George Rinedour; John A., the subject of this sketch, and Barbara, who died in infancy. Mrs. Simon died on May 11, 1868. Mr. Simon was married, the second time, March 18, 1870, to Jennie Apger, daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Apger, who was born on Feb-

ruary 10, 1847. To this second marriage seven children were born: Mary L., who died on October 31, 1876; Charle E., Chester L., Ora A., Lewis W., Blanch, Ralph B. and an infant who died unnamed. Lewis Simon is still living in Putnam county, and, although disabled, is a man who retains all of his mental faculties. His life has been eminently connected with the history of Putnam county and he is a man highly respected throughout the county. He is a member of Masonic lodge No. 325, at Ottawa, and is also a member of the United Brethren church.

The late John A. Simon was educated in the Greensburg township public schools and lived on his father's farm until early manhood. He was married on October 1, 1891, to Millie Mullet, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Crow) Mullet. Jacob Mullet was born in Switzerland, in 1840, and was the son of John and Maria (Ratz) Mullet. About 1847 they came to America. They were three months making the voyage on a sailing vessel. John Mullet, after spending about a year at Cincinnati and a few years at Columbus, Ohio, located near Elm Center, about 1852, while the land was still covered with timber. Later, when the Nickel Plate railroad grade was made, it gave the people work and the land upon which he settled became the finest to be found anywhere in Putnam county. Here Jacob Mullet grew to manhood, and, in 1864, he married Elizabeth Crow, who was born in the northeast part of Greensburg township in January, 1842, and who was the daughter of W. R. and Bersheba (Brower) Crow. W. R. Crow came from Columbiana county, Ohio, where he was born on April 12, 1821, and he was the son of James and Elizabeth (Morland) Crow, who settled here in 1835. James Crow was the son of Abraham and Rachael (Craven) Crow. Abraham Crow was born in 1748 and was among the early settlers of Pennsylvania. He was married in Berks county to Rachel Craven and moved to Pennsylvania in 1787, settling in Washington county. They removed to Columbiana county, Ohio, about 1815. A brother of Abraham Crow was killed in the battle of the Brandywine. Abraham and Rachel (Craven) Crow had eleven children. Abraham, Jr., married Sarah Thompson and was a pioneer settler in Greensburg township. He left numerous progeny and died in his ninety-seventh year. W. R. Crow's wife, Bersheba Brower, was born in Randolph county in 1819, and was the daughter of Frederick and Helena (Staley) Brower. Frederick Brower was born in North Carolina and was a son of Adam Brower, a native of Pennsylvania. Adam's father was the founder of the family in America. Frederick Brower was born and reared in North Carolina and there learned shoemaking and tanning. He married Nellie Staley, in Randolph county, North

Carolina. Her father was a cousin of the royal family of Germany. Frederick Brower moved to Florida and thence back to Ohio, and thence to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. After several other moves, the family came finally to Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, and entered ninety-three acres of land. He was the fourth settler in Greensburg township and when he came to Allen county he brought with him a hand-mill which he used to grind corn. In time he became the owner of four hundred and ninety-three acres and cultivated it until his death, in June, 1875. His wife died in 1889. He was the first justice of the peace in Greensburg township, and also the first trustee in that township. After Jacob Mullet's marriage, he first engaged in the butcher business, in Ottawa, and then spent a short time on a farm in Greensburg township. Subsequently, he removed to Leipsic and engaged in the butcher business for six years, after which time he moved back to Greensburg township and farmed until his death. He and his wife owned one hundred and sixty acres of land. Mrs. Jacob Mullet died in 1887, and he died in 1900. They had eight children: William G., of Greensburg township; John A., of near Continental; Amelia B., the widow of John A. Simon, the subject of this sketch; Anna Florence, the wife of William H. Wisterman, of Toledo; Mary Emma, the wife of Amos Ridenour, who lives near Wabash, Indiana; Luther H., of Toledo; Frederick, of Three Rivers, Michigan, and Everett, who lives near Butler, Indiana. After the death of his first wife, Jacob Mullet married Mrs. Sarah Shardeman, and one child was born to this marriage, Jacob Mullet, Jr.

After the marriage of the late John A. Simon and Millie Mullet they moved to a farm in Palmer township, consisting of eighty acres, which farm had been given to Mr. Simon by his father. Here he built several buildings, drained and cleared part of the land, and later acquired forty acres, which he added to his original purchase. He continued to live on this farm until his death, which occurred on November 29, 1910. He is buried in the Varner cemetery, in Greensburg township. To the late John A. Simon and wife was born one child, Leonore, in 1897, who was educated in the district schools and in the high school. She also took a course in music in Taylor University and later took a course in the Toledo Conservatory of Music. She is a splendid pianist and has also taught music. She has a splendid reputation in musical circles. Miss Simon's friends predict for her a brilliant future in the profession to which she is so keenly devoted.

Mrs. Millie Simon and her daughter Leonore still live on the farm, where Mrs. Simon is the overseer and manager. She is a woman of rare

charm and grace of manners. She has splendid business qualifications and has made a remarkable success of the farm since the death of her husband. They are the center of a wide circle of friends and are beloved by all the people of Palmer township.

The late John A. Simon was a Democrat. He served as supervisor and school director of Palmer township. He was an earnest worker and a highly honored citizen, a good husband and a kind father. The late John A. Simon belonged to the United Brethren church. Mrs. Simon and her daughter are also members of this church.

WILLIAM T. REMLINGER.

Putnam county, Ohio, has been especially favored in character and success of its pharmacists and druggists. Among the representatives of this profession in Putnam county is William T. Remlinger, of Ottoville, Ohio. Mr. Remlinger, as a consequence of years' experience in business for himself at Ottoville, has not only won for himself a rather large measure of success, but has, through his personal influence, stood for the best things in the community life, and is now regarded as one of the active, progressive and successful business men of Monterey township. He is one of the best citizens in this community from whatever standpoint he may be judged.

William T. Remlinger, the subject of this sketch, was born on March 23, 1873, in Pleasant Valley, Jennings township. He is the son of Andrew and Mary (Heffel) Remlinger. Andrew Remlinger was born on November 30, 1836, in Lorraine, then a part of France. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Heffel, was born in Huron county, Ohio, on March 21, 1843. Her parents were natives of Germany. Andrew Remlinger came to the United States with his parents in 1847 and located at Milan, Erie county, Ohio. From this place the family moved to Wyandot county, where they purchased a farm and lived until 1865, when they moved to Putnam county. They purchased a farm in this county and lived there the remainder of their lives. Here, also, the paternal grandparents of William T. Remlinger lived the remainder of their lives. His grandmother died on February 14, 1877, and his grandfather, who was Sebastian Remlinger, died on November 28, 1890. Both are buried in the Ft. Jennings Catholic cemetery.

Andrew Remlinger, the father of William T., while a young man,

learned the ship-builder's trade and followed this from 1853 to 1865. During this period he was employed by the United States government as a ship-builder at Nashville, Tennessee, and at Bridgeport, Alabama. In February, 1865, he was employed in the federal service on the Tennessee river and continued in this service until the close of the Civil War. In May, 1865, he removed to Toledo, Ohio, where he worked until the fall of that year. He then removed to Fremont, Ohio, and, leaving Fremont, he went to Norwalk, Ohio, where he worked for five years in the railroad shops. Subsequently, he located on a farm in Erie county, Ohio, and, on June 19, 1866, he was married to Mary Heffel, the daughter of Jacob and Mary (Beyer) Heffel. They had five children, four of whom are now living: Louis P., who died at the age of thirty-six years; Charles P., who lives at Milan, Ohio; William T., the subject of this sketch; Cornelia, the wife of Louis H. Grote, of Ft. Jennings, and Henry, who lives on the old homestead.

Andrew Remlinger moved to Jennings township in 1871 and purchased eighty acres of land, farming this for three years, when he sold it and purchased a farm of ninety-eight acres. Later, he purchased forty acres more and lived on this farm the remainder of his days. He died in 1897, and his wife died in 1914. Andrew Remlinger was a Democrat and served as township trustee for a number of years. He and his wife were both devout Catholics.

William T. Remlinger received his education in the schools of Jackson township. He also attended Crawford College for one year and then taught school for three years. He took up the study of pharmacy in the Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio, in 1893, graduating from this institution on March 1, 1894. On April 25, 1894, he purchased a drug store in Ottoville, where he has been engaged in business ever since. It is one of the best drug stores in Putnam county.

William T. Remlinger was married on June 17, 1896, to Nellie G. Huysman, the daughter of Walter and Henrietta (Blockberger) Huysman. Walter Huysman was born in Holland and his wife in Saxony, Germany. Both came to the United States when they were small children. Mrs. Remlinger was born and reared in Putnam county, Ohio, and is one of a family of eight children. To William T. and Nellie G. (Huysman) Remlinger two children have been born, Walter and Harold. Walter, who was born on May 8, 1897, is a graduate of the Ottoville school and also of the Delphos high school. He entered the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, in September, 1914, and is now a student at this great institution, and Harold, who was born on May 25, 1900, is attending the Ottoville schools.

Fraternally, William T. Remlinger is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio and the Catholic Knights of Columbus. He is a Democrat and is a member of the school board of Ottoville, and is clerk and treasurer of this board, which office he has filled since 1898. Mr. Remlinger is president of the Ottoville Loan and Savings Company. He was vice-president in 1898, and became president in 1900, having served in this position ever since. Mr. Remlinger is also president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, of Ottoville, and treasurer of Monterey township, now serving his first term. Mr. Remlinger and all the members of his family are devout members of the Catholic church.

GEORGE E. ALTENBURGER.

The record of George E. Altenburger is that of a man who, by his own unaided efforts, has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of influence in his community. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance. The systematic and honest methods he has followed have won for him the unbounded confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens in Putnam county, whose interests he has ever had at heart and for which he has always labored. George E. Altenburger is a well-known business man of Ottoville, Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is interested in the real estate, loan and insurance business, and, during recent years, has built up a comfortable and growing business.

George E. Altenburger was born on August 27, 1867, in Auglaize county, Ohio. He is the son of Peter and Mary (Miller) Altenburger. Peter Altenburger was a native of Alsace, France. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Miller, was born in Alsace and came with her parents to the United States at the age of two years. They settled at Waynesburg, Ohio, in Stark county. Peter Altenburger came to this country about 1838 and settled in Stark county. He was born in July, in 1818. His wife was born in 1830. Peter Altenburger served in the regular army of France for six years and three months. He and his wife were married in Stark county, Ohio. They were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are living, one dying in infancy; John died at the age of fifty; Louis lives at Delphos, where he is a retired farmer; Magdeline is the wife of Joseph Krabach. They live at Wapakoneta; Joseph lives in Monterey township; Peter, Jr., lives at Bodkins, Ohio, where he is a contractor and builder; Mary is the wife of John Hohlbein, and they live in Jackson township; An-

drew lives in Cloverdale, Ohio; George E. is the subject of this sketch; Flora lives at Ottoville with George E.; William died at the age of two years; F. X. Altenburger lives at Delphos, Ohio, where he is in the real estate and insurance business.

Peter Altenburger was a farmer and followed this occupation in Stark county, Ohio. After living for some time in Stark county, he removed to Auglaize county, where he was engaged in farming until about 1877, when he removed to Van Wert county. There he followed farming until about 1898, when he retired and moved to Ottoville. He died in Ottoville in August, 1905. His wife died on April 14, 1910. Both were devoted members of the Catholic church. During the Civil War, Peter Altenburger drilled two companies at Waynesburg, Ohio, and was appointed captain, but was unable to serve.

George Altenburger received his education in the public schools of Van Wert county and in 1894 began clerking for the firm of Winkelman & Vincke, at Ottoville, where he was employed for about ten years. He opened a general insurance office at Ottoville in 1904, where he also conducted a real estate and loan business. Mr. Altenburger is a justice of the peace, notary public and secretary of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, at Ottoville. He assisted in the organization of this company, in 1904, and has been secretary since that time. Mr. Altenburger is a director and vice-president of the Building and Loan Savings Company at Ottoville.

George E. Altenburger was married on September 29, 1897, to Dora Schlagbaum, a daughter of Bernard and Clara (Helmkamp) Schlagbaum. To this union five children were born. Alberta was born July 4, 1898. Clara was born May 2, 1900. George was born May 17, 1903. Lovena was born November 27, 1914. Watler was born December 25, 1906. Mrs. George E. Altenburger died April 4, 1907.

Bernard Schlagbaum, the father of Mrs. George E. Altenburger is a successful farmer of Monterey township. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 26, 1840, and here his parents were married. They were both natives of Germany and had ten children, Bernard Schlagbaum, the father of Mrs. Altenburger, was brought to Putnam county by his parents when three years of age. They settled on a farm of eighty acres, one mile east of Ottoville where the father and sons worked to clear the timber off the land. Mrs. Altenburger's father was married on February 12, 1874, to Clara Anna Helmkamp, who was born in Hanover, Germany, July 24, 1846, her maiden name being Grave. Her parents came to the United States at an early date and settled at Delphos, Ohio. She first married Bernard Helmkamp and

they had two children. After his death, she married Mr. Schlagbaum. Mrs. Altenburger was one of five children.

George E. Altenburger is an ardent Democrat, has served as assessor of Ottoville and of Monterey township, and has discharged the duties of these offices in a most creditable manner. Fraternally, he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and a member of the Eagles, at Delphos, Ohio. All of the members of the Altenburger family are devoted to the Catholic church. They are liberal contributors to the support of this church and influential in its membership.

FRANK PAHL.

The man whose name forms the caption of this review is one of those men of enterprise and perseverance who has succeeded in his chosen vocation and, by careful management, has become one of the leading agriculturists, and at the same time has been of good service to the community in matters of civic welfare by advancing public interests and proving himself worthy of the trust and confidence reposed in him by the people. In consequence of his good citizenship and the high regard in which he is held by all who know him, he is entitled to recognition and commendation in a work of this nature.

Frank Pahl was born near the town of Norwalk in Huron county, Ohio, July 14, 1852, and is the son of Frank and Marie (Simons) Pahl. Frank Pahl, Sr., was born in Baden, Germany, and was quite young when he accompanied his parents to the United States where they first settled in the city of Buffalo, New York. This was in the year 1832, and after remaining in Buffalo for about twelve months, they decided to remove to Huron county, Ohio, where they engaged in farming. The mother of Frank Pahl also was born in Germany, in the town of Beyers, and immigrated to this country with her parents when she was but three years of age. Her parents settled in Seneca county, Ohio, and it was here that Frank Pahl's father and mother were married, and to them were born nine children, Elizabeth, deceased; Mary, deceased; Helen, wife of Jacob Hubert who lives near Fremont, Sandusky county, Ohio; Frank, the subject of review; Peter, who resides in the state of Michigan; Rose, the wife of Ferdinand Esker, who lives in Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio, and three other children who died in infancy.

Frank Pahl, Sr., was engaged in farming through his entire life and his wife died about the year 1857. His second marriage is recorded to Helen Simons, to which union there were born ten children, all of whom are living

except one. In the order of their birth they were as follow: Louisa, wife of Joseph Brown; Frances, the widow of Louis Lodgson; Henry; Emil; William; Mary; John; Charles; Jerome and Helen. All of these children live in or near the town of Terry, Wyandot county, Ohio, exception being made of Charles who is engaged in the undertaking business in Tiffin, Ohio, Jerome who lives near Akron, Ohio, and the last named, Helen, is deceased. Their father died on January 22, 1910.

Frank Pahl, the subject, received his early education in the township schools and on reaching maturity his father turned the farm over to him for management on the basis of one-third shares from the crops. On March 4, 1879, Frank Pahl was married to Amelia Broadman, who was born in February, 1852, the daughter of Nicholas and Gustina Broadman, both of whom were natives of Germany and from where they came to this country with their respective parents when they were very young. They grew to maturity in Huron county and were married there, also started housekeeping, but, at a later date, decided to move to Wyandot, where they engaged in farming until the time of their deaths.

Soon after their marriage Frank Pahl and wife left Huron county and came to Putnam county, Ohio, where in the spring of 1893, he purchased a farm consisting of one hundred acres of partly cleared land in section 36 of Monterey township, and has made this place his permanent home. When Frank Pahl first settled on this farm, it was not in very good condition for the raising of crops and besides required considerable clearing. After cutting a part of the timber, ditching and systematically using drain tile, this farm has become highly productive and profitable, and is now under the management of one of his sons who farms it successfully on shares. After spending a great many years on the home place, Mr. Pahl decided to retire from active farm life and purchased two lots in the town of Ottoville, this county, upon which he has erected a very substantial and comfortable dwelling where he and his wife make their present home, retaining their interest in the farm. To Frank and Amelia (Broadman) Pahl have been born eight children, six of whom are living. They are Ralph, who lives on the homestead in Monterey township and who was married to Addie Wright, to whom were born two children, Leroy and Lyle; Dora, the wife of Joseph Bauman, who lives in Jennings township, and who have three living children, Hilda, Mersella, and Rosalie; Lawrence who died at the age of six years and two others that died in infancy; William, who married Elizabeth Fosel who had one daughter by this marriage. William's first wife died and he was married a second time to Rosa Scheetal and they have two sons. William Pahl

and family now reside in Michigan; Tillie, the wife of Edward Kramer, who lives in Ottoville and where he is engaged in the lumber business. To them were born four children, Roman, Permillia, Welma and Norval; Clarence was married to Phine Carder and they live in Delphos, Ohio. Two children were born to them.

Mr. Pahl has always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the community and at all times stands for progressive legislation to the benefit of the commonwealth of the state of Ohio. He is prominently identified with the Democratic ticket in Putnam county and has served the people of his township as trustee for six years. He is also greatly interested in matters pertaining to education and for twenty-six years has served as director on the school board and is the oldest member of that board. The family are devout members of the Catholic church in Ottoville, to which they give their earnest support and contribute liberally. Personally, Mr. Pahl is a man held in the highest respect among his fellow men and has a reputation for being absolutely fair in all of his dealings. He is a man of kindly disposition, pleasant to all classes, honest and thoroughly trustworthy, and is much admired by all who know him.

ERNEST BURILL.

One of the most enterprising of the younger generation of farmers in Putnam county who has worked diligently and whose future should be successful, if hard work and intelligence can make it so, is Ernest Burill. Ernest Burill has been a close student of everything that pertains to his work on the farm and from the beginning of his career has met with gratifying success. Judging from his past record, he will undoubtedly achieve much in future years and take his place among the leading farmers of Putnam county.

Ernest Burill was born on November 29, 1888, at Pleasant Bend, Henry county, Ohio. He is the son of Henry and Katherine (Morris) Burill, an account of whose lives is given elsewhere in this volume.

Ernest Burill was educated in the Palmer township schools and lived on the farm until his marriage, April 23, 1911, to Ruth Baker, who is the daughter of Fred and Minnie (Engle) Baker. Fred Baker was born in Henry county, Ohio, and died in May, 1904, at the age of thirty-three years. His wife was born in Defiance county, Ohio, and after their marriage, Fred Baker and wife moved to a farm in Henry county near Holgate, Ohio. Later, they moved to Holgate, Ohio, where he engaged in the liquor business. He

continued in this business until his death. His wife still survives and lives in Holgate, Ohio. She was married a second time to Frank M. Smith. Fred Baker was not a member of any lodge and had held no public offices. He was a member of the German Reformed church. Fred and Minnie Baker had three children, Emma, William and Ruth, the wife of Mr. Burill; Emma married John Aden and lives at Holgate, Ohio, and William also lives at Holgate.

After his marriage, Mr. Burill moved to a farm in Palmer township, where he worked by the year for Benjamin F. Shafer. Later, he moved to Holgate, Ohio, and was employed in the tile-mill there. Subsequently, he moved to a forty-acre tract of land in section 6, of Palmer township, one-half mile west of his father's homestead farm, which forty acres was later deeded to him by his father. He came to this farm on December 1, 1914, cleared a portion of it and is contemplating the erection of a home. The farm is well located and consists of good soil.

Ernest Burill is an ardent farmer. He is not a member of any lodge and has held no offices. Mr. Burill is identified with the Democratic party, but has never been active in its councils. He and his wife are members of the German Reformed church. Ernest is a progressive young farmer, a hard worker, congenial and well-liked by the people of his neighborhood. He is a young man who deserves special recognition in a work of this character.

ROBERT BENNETT LAYTON.

One of the best-known and most enterprising of the younger farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, and Perry township, is Robert Bennett Layton, now in the very prime of life and usefulness. His influence as an honorable and upright citizen is productive of much good upon all with whom he comes in contact. His past success gives assurance of something yet to come. He is evidently destined to continue a potent factor for substantial good for many years to come. Mr. Layton owns splendid farming land in Perry township, which he operates in a manner that proves that he is fully acquainted with twentieth-century methods of farming.

Robert Bennett Layton was born in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, on January 16, 1870. He is the son of John Rush and Hannah Isabel (Bennett) Layton.

John Rush Layton, father of Robert B., died in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, February 15, 1914. He was at one time president of the Commercial Na-



ROBERT B. LAYTON.

tional Bank, of Upper Sandusky. John R. Layton was a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Bedford county on August 13, 1831. His parents were Moses B. and Susan (Rolin) Layton. His father was of English and Scottish extraction and was a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, where he was reared on a farm. He married Susan Rolin, and in 1832 emigrated to Knox county, remaining there for almost two years. About 1834 he moved to Erie county and rented a farm. He followed farming until in 1835, when his wife died. Putting his four children into homes in Sandusky, he went to Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and engaged in the butcher business until in 1840, when he went to Marion, Ohio, and purchased a farm, on which he remained until 1851, when he sold out and again broke up house-keeping. Then, for five years, he was engaged in buying and shipping live stock. Coming to Upper Sandusky, he purchased a home and for a time conducted a hotel at that place. He was married again about this time, when he purchased a farm west of Upper Sandusky. This place he operated until 1860, when he sold it to his son, John Rush Layton, but for a year longer he continued to make it his home. In the fall of 1861, feeling that he was needed in the military service of his country, he enlisted in the Fifteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private. He was later made wagon master and served in that position for one year, when, on account of ill health, he was mustered out of service. A few months later, however, he re-enlisted, this time in the Sixty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served in Virginia as ambulance master. After the battle of Gettysburg he was detailed to transport the wounded to Jersey City, New Jersey. Not long afterward, in 1864, he received an honorable discharge and returned to Ohio, making his home, as before, with John R. Layton, his son. The following year he went to Putnam county, where he purchased a farm, on which place he passed the remainder of his days. While on a trip through Pennsylvania, September 29, 1889, he was smothered by gas in his room in a hotel. At the time of his death he was eighty-two years old. His remains were brought back to his Ohio home for interment. He was an active man, self-made, and though he made money, he lived fully up to his earnings. He was a Republican, although not active in party matters, and was a member of the Christian church. The first wife of Mr. Layton and the mother of John Rush Layton was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, and died in Erie county, at the age of twenty-five as the result of a severe cold. Four children were born to Moses B. and Susan Layton, as follow: Mary, who married a Mr. Davis; Isabelle, who died in 1863; John R., the father of Robert B., and Matilda, a resident of Putnam county.

John Rush Layton was but five years of age when his mother died. He went to live with a man by the name of Willis, at Sandusky, in whose family he remained for nearly two years, when his father took him to Mt. Vernon, where he remained until the spring of 1840, at which time he went to Indiana, locating near Covington, and the following winter chopped cordwood for fifty cents a day. The next spring he went to Illinois and for eight years rented a farm in Vermilion county, where he was fairly successful, and by hard toil and rigid economy managed to save twenty-five hundred dollars. In December, 1859, he returned to Ohio and purchased his father's farm of one hundred and sixty-five acres, adjoining the corporation of Upper Sandusky. As his father did not have the farm entirely paid for, John Rush Layton was obliged to go in debt over three thousand dollars. He remained on this place and, by persistent effort, was able to pay off the indebtedness. When his farm was cleared of this incumbrance he branched out into the live stock business, which he not only bought, sold and shipped at dicerent times, but also bought considerable wool. He built an elevator and handled grain for twenty-five years, during all of which transactions he maintained an active supervision of his farm interests. He was one of the stockholders and organizers in the Ohio Thresher and Engine Company. Later he disposed of his stock in this company, and during the gas boom in his neighborhood sold ninety-seven acres of his land for two hundred dollars an acre, and afterward bought it back for seventy-five dollars an acre. He has also purchased other agricultural property, so that he now owns one hundred and ninety acres, comprising the home farm, one hundred and sixty acres west of the first tract and two hundred and fifty acres in Putnam county.

On January 1, 1895, John Rush Layton assisted in the organization of the Commercial Bank, a private banking institution of Upper Sandusky. On July 5, 1900, the institution was nationalized and opened for business under the name of the Commercial National Bank. Mr. Layton had for three years served as president of the old bank, and after the reorganization retained the position until January 8, 1902, at which time he tendered his resignation, that he might the better devote his time to private matters. When the old Wyandot Bank failed, Mr. Layton was appointed receiver and satisfactorily performed the onerous duties of that position. It required about six years to close up the affairs of the defunct bank.

John Rush Layton was married on January 1, 1861, to Hannah I. Bennett, of Upper Sandusky. She was born on August 25, 1844, and was the daughter of David and Phoebe Bennett. This union was a happy one and was blessed by ten children: Laura, deceased, who married Milton M. Hol-

lanshean; John Brough, who is a merchant at Marion; Alonzo, who lives at Jefferson; Charles Henry, deceased, who was a bookkeeper in the Commercial National Bank at Upper Sandusky; Hugh Delbert, of Upper Sandusky; Robert Bennett, the subject of this sketch; Phoebe Grace, who married Arlington E. Coen, of Bowling Green, Ohio; Moses Bishop, who lives at Rathdrum, Idaho; Walter Earl, deceased, who attended Ohio Wesleyan University, and Mrs. Susie Blanche Gates, who lives at Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs. Hannah I. Layton survives her husband and lives in Upper Sandusky. She and her two daughters and two of her sons are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics, John Rush Layton was a Republican, although he never took an active part in politics. The Layton family are all popular among their acquaintances. John Rush Layton truly obtained an enviable standing among his business associates. He was the architect of his own fortune and builded wisely and well. The success which crowned his efforts was richly deserved.

Educated in the Upper Sandusky schools, which course was supplemented by a course in the high school of Upper Sandusky, Robert B. Layton moved, December 17, 1908, from his home place in Upper Sandusky to Perry township, Putnam county, where his father had acquired an extensive tract of land close to and adjoining the Blanchard river in section 14. Here Robert B. Layton has continued to reside. Subsequently he acquired land of his own and now owns and rents two hundred and forty-four acres. He follows general farming. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, when the call came for volunteers, Robert B. Layton was one of the first to respond. He served during the term of his enlistment in a creditable manner.

Robert B. Layton is active not only in agriculture but in the business affairs of the community. He is president of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company and was recently appointed by Governor Willis as county district tax assessor of Putnam county. This was a deserved honor in consideration of the efforts of Mr. Layton in behalf of the success of the Republican party.

On September 14, 1901, Robert B. Layton was married, in Greenville, Ohio, to Etta Elizabeth Kilgore, who was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, on March 24, 1881, and who is the daughter of Isaac Chapman and Katherine Ann (Harrison) Kilgore, the former of whom was born on March 4, 1849, in Virginia, and the latter born on January 8, 1861, in Bayonne, New Jersey. Both are still living. They were the parents of five children, Frederick Chapman, Bessie May, Etta Elizabeth, Harrison Morton and Leo Robert. Mr. and Mrs. Layton have no children.

Robert B. Layton is well known as a congenial, progressive and intel-

ligent citizen of Putnam county. He is socially agreeable and is well liked by the people about him, where he is well known. He stands high in the business and social life of the community, and has a fine farm, well located, which shows signs of careful farming. Mr. Layton's business address is at Continental, Ohio, where his plans contemplate moving his residence and renting out his farm.

Mr. Layton is identified with the Republican party, he takes an active and prominent interest in the affairs of this party, and though he is not a member of any church, he is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, No. 147. He is also a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, No. 520, of which he has served as worshipful master in 1914. He also served as worthy patron in the Order of the Eastern Star, from 1912 until 1914, and is a member of Chapter 115, Council 69. He has taken the sixteenth degree of Scottish Rite Masonry and expects to complete the remaining degrees up to the thirty-second.

DAVID G. MILLER.

A day's ride in Putnam county, Ohio, reveals, even to the casual observer, a splendid stretch of farming country. Whether the farms be large or small, there is a marked uniformity of excellence, not only in the land values, but also in the character of the industries promoted, and yet, the close observer will see that this prosperous condition is not accidental. He knows that it is the fruit of brawn and brain, the result of painstaking toil extending through the years, and thought concentrated upon one object—success. To some, the struggle has meant bitter disappointment, but others there are who have refused to recognize obstacles, who have shown their spirit to be mightier than all conditions. But it has taken them all to make up the life of each community. Therefore we are interested in every pioneer who has made his contribution to the prosperity of Putnam county. Among these, David G. Miller claims our attention, not only because of his success as a farmer, but because he merited the esteem of his fellow men.

Two years after the birth of David G. Miller, which occurred on June 9, 1868, his mother, Mary (Vogt) Miller became a widow through the death of her husband, Christ Miller. Their home was then in Allen county, Ohio. After the marriage of his mother, some time later, to Aaron Huysman, the

family moved to Putnam county, selecting Monterey township for their future home. At this time, David was about four years old.

Fortunately, he had three brothers older than himself, these being the sons of Christ and Mary Miller. Under the guidance of a devoted mother, they grew to manhood, and all are living today, John H. at Bossil, Fairfield county; Adams, a farmer, in Van Wert county, and Jacob near Continental, Ohio.

The life of David G. Miller has not been different in outward circumstance to that of many of his friends and neighbors, but who shall say that the inner life has not been rich and varied? Ambitious to learn all that the schools in his vicinity were able to give him, he received a common school education, working on his father's farm when not attending school. Reaching the mature age of twenty-six, he started out for himself, acquiring a tract of well-improved land, consisting of forty acres, in section 26, about two and one-half miles southwest of Ottoville. It was 1905 when he began an independent career, by marrying Miss Mary Hanefeld, the wedding taking place on January 19.

The bride was a daughter of John D. and Sophina (Kirchoff) Hanefeld, both of whom were natives of Germany. John Hanefeld came to the United States with his parents when he was a little fellow of eight summers, and they all settled on a farm in Jennings township. Mrs. Hanefeld was twenty-two when she left Germany and came to this country, living for a while after her arrival in New York city. Preferring country life to the city, the family later removed to Ft. Jennings where the young woman met and married John Hanefeld. Of the nine children, who blessed their home, four only are living. These are Mrs. David G. Miller; John, who lives near Continental; Louis and Paul, who live at home. Henry died when eleven years of age, and four others passed away in infancy. Both parents are living and are still interested in their farm in Jackson township.

Bertha S. Miller is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David G. Miller, and also the only child. She was born on December 29, 1905, and is attending school near their attractive country home.

Mr. Miller, in recent years, has given particular attention to the raising of full-blooded Light Brahma chickens and a splendid grade of stock. So successful has he been that he is often sought by his neighbors that they may profit by his advice and experience. Mr. Miller has always cast his lot with the Republican party. He is a member of the Presbyterian church of Delphos, while his wife still retains her membership in the Lutheran church of Ft. Jennings.

Mr. Miller is the kind of man that every community needs. His life has not been one spent in the world's broad thoroughfares, nor has he won laurels on the field of battle, but each day's task has been performed with courage and perseverance and in a kindly spirit, and who shall say that this is not success?

HENRY ERNST.

It cannot be other than interesting to note, in the series of personal sketches appearing in this work, the varying conditions that have compassed those whose careers are here outlined, and thus it has been made in each case to throw well-focused light on the individuality and to bring to proper perspective the scheme of each career. Each man who strives to fill his part in connection with human life and human activities, deserves recognition, whatever may be his field of endeavor. It is the function of works of this nature to perpetuate for future generations an authentic record of those represented in its pages and the value of such publications is certain to be cumulative for all time to come, showing forth the individual and specific accomplishments of each community. Henry Ernst, the subject of this sketch, is a well-known merchant of Ottoville.

Henry Ernst was born on February 27, 1859, in Huron county, Ohio, the son of William and Catherine (Leis) Ernst. William Ernst was a native of Westphalia, Prussia, and his wife was born in Bavaria. They were married in New York city. William Ernst came to the United States in 1852, and worked in New York for a time. After his marriage, he and his wife came west to Ohio, settling in Huron county. Ten children were born to them, five sons and five daughters. Six are now living, Kate, the wife of Joseph Fritz, of Huron county; Sophia, the wife of John Miller, also of Huron county; Margaret, the wife of Kinney Cole, of near Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Anthony, who lives in San Francisco, California, and Peter, who lives in Michigan. After coming to Ohio, William Ernst was a farmer and followed this occupation the remainder of his life. He died on November 14, 1893, and his wife died on October 25, 1880.

Henry Ernst received a common school education. He learned the brickmaker's trade in 1883, and came to Ottoville, where he was foreman of a brick yard for two years. During this period, he made brick for the Catholic church. He began life for himself in 1886 and engaged in the

manufacture of brick, which he continued for several years. In connection with this industry, he was also engaged in farming during this period and for two years was engaged in making butter. He purchased an interest in the J. J. Miller Company, in 1894, which operates the largest general store in Ottoville.

Henry Ernst was married on November 24, 1885, to Theresia Wannemacher, the daughter of Peter and Agnes (Neher) Wannemacher, both natives of Wurtemberg, Germany. They came to Putnam county in 1854, where they settled on a farm. Prior to their coming to Putnam county, they lived for a short time in Cincinnati. Peter Wannemacher operated a saw-mill and also owned a boat on the canal, which ran between Cincinnati and Toledo, Ohio. He died on October 17, 1912, and his wife died on January 19, 1892.

To Henry and Theresia (Wannemacher) Ernst, eleven children have been born, only two of whom are now living. Nine of them died in infancy. The two living children are Mary W., who is a graduate of Notre Dame University and lives at home, and Albina S., who graduated from the high school at Ottoville and lives at home.

Mr. Ernst is a Democrat and he and his family are members of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Ottoville. Mr. Ernst is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

Mr. Ernst has made a splendid success of his business at Ottoville, which has been founded upon honesty and square dealings with his patrons. He is highly respected in the community and honored for his sterling, upright character.

JOHN J. MILLER.

In the early days, the Middle West was often a tempting field to energetic, ambitious, strong-minded men, and Ohio was filled with them during the time she was struggling to a respectable position in the sisterhood of states. There was a fascination in the broad fields of great promise which this new region presented to activity that attracted many men and induced them to brave the discomforts of early life for the pleasure and gratification of constructing their homes and fortunes in their own way and after their own methods. It is this class of men more than any other who gives shape, direction and character to the business of a community. John J. Miller, during a long period of years, has been one of the substantial and prominent

citizens of Putnam county. Although, perhaps not entitled to rank as a pioneer, Mr. Miller has lived here for many years and has become a power in the commercial and business life of Ottoville and vicinity.

John J. Miller was born at Fremont, Ohio, on April 14, 1854. He is the son of John and Johanna (Flatz) Miller, the former of whom was born on June 14, 1820, in Bavaria, and the latter born in 1828, in Tyrol, Austria. The father came to America in 1848 and first settled in Pennsylvania, where he remained for one year. He then moved to Fremont, in Sandusky county, Ohio, and, being a tailor by trade, engaged in that business. He was married in Fremont, in 1853, to Johanna Flatz and to them were born seven children, six of whom are now living, John J., the eldest, who is the subject of this sketch; Jane, deceased; Anna, the wife of Andrew Kehres, of Monett, Missouri; Edward, who lives at Celina, Ohio; George, who is a manufacturer of tile and a farmer near Ottoville; Josephine, who is the wife of Joseph Breckner, of Monterey township; Katherine, who is unmarried and lives at Delphos, Ohio.

John Miller, the father of John J., moved to Putnam county in 1862, and bought a farm near Ottoville, Monterey township. Here he spent the remainder of his days and was a very successful farmer. He was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of as good land as there was to be found in Putnam county. He was a devoted member of the Catholic church and died March 19, 1902. His wife died in August, 1906.

John J. Miller, the subject of this sketch, received a good common school education in the public schools of Putnam county. Mr. Miller was married to Margaret Lauer, a daughter of Alexander and Elizabeth (Reitze) Lauer, both born in Lorraine, Germany, and both of whom came to the United States in 1870, locating in Ottoville. Alexander Lauer was a farmer and followed this occupation until 1908, when he retired. He died on January 16, 1913, and his wife died on January 23, 1908. To John J. and Margaret (Lauer) Miller, seven children have been born, all of whom are living, Elizabeth, the wife of Walter Mersman, of Celina, Ohio; Alexander, who assists in the store at Ottoville; Mary, the wife of Dr. J. F. Oekuly, of Ottoville; Edward, who manages the J. J. Miller & Company branch store at Kalida; Catherine, Margaret and Rudolph, all at home.

John J. Miller followed farming, until about 1890, when he began manufacturing tile, and was in this business for seven years. Upon selling his interest in this business, he purchased the Ottoville hotel and was proprietor of this hotel for one and one-half years, when he sold the hotel and went into the mercantile business. This was about eighteen years ago, and the business

was conducted under the firm name of J. J. Miller & Company. The company was incorporated under this name in 1911 and they now operate a branch store at Kalida. The store at Ottoville is the largest mercantile store in Putnam county. Mr. Miller is vice-president of the Ottoville Bank Company, a stockholder in the Griffis Produce Company, of Ottoville, and in many other ways is closely identified with the business life of that community.

John J. Miller is an ardent Democrat, but has never been especially active in political affairs and has never held office. All of the members of the Miller family are devotedly attached to the Catholic church and are liberal contributors to its support.

GERHARD H. OTTE.

The great English poet, Pope, has said that the proper study of mankind is man. No truer statement was ever made. To be able to trace one's ancestry back to past generations, and find that they have occupied high and honorable positions in the history of their country, is a source of genuine satisfaction, and deep gratification. To be the son of a man who is identified with the pioneer life of a community and who, during his lifetime, figured prominently in pioneer affairs, is an honor of no mean importance. The father of Gerhard H. Otte was one of the first settlers in Monterey township, and in his day one of the influential citizens of this township. Gerhard H. Otte is descended from a long line of illustrious ancestors, who have been influential on two continents. Mr. Otte's grandfather and father both were named Gerhard H., and Mr. Otte himself has a son named Gerhard.

Gerhard H. Otte was born on October 8, 1870, in Ottoville, Ohio. He is the son of Gerhard H. and Anna (Wurst) Otte.

The father of Gerhard H. Otte, the subject of this sketch, was a prominent citizen of Ottoville, who was born on May 13, 1834, on his father's farm, near Osnabruck, Germany. His father, also named Gerhard, was the owner of fifty-six acres of land in Hanover, which had been held by the Otte family for many generations, and on which the grandfather of Gerhard H., the subject of this sketch, passed all his life. He married Agnes Barlag, and they had eight children, only two of whom ever came to America. They were Joseph and Gerhard H., the father of the subject of this sketch. The grandfather lived to be eighty-three years old.

Gerhard H. Otte was educated in Germany, and at the age of sixteen years, he sailed from Bremen, making a tedious voyage of eight weeks and

three days, finally landing in New York in June, 1851. From New York city he went to Albany by a Hudson river steamer, in company with his second cousin, Henry Esch, who later located in Ottawa, and still later returned to Germany. From Albany, New York, Mr. Otte, the father of our subject, went to Buffalo, by way of the Erie canal, and then by Lake Erie to Erie, Pennsylvania, thence by canal to Beaver, Pennsylvania, and by the Ohio river to Cincinnati. Finally, he reached section 10, at Delphos, on the Miami & Erie canal. A few days later he came to Ottoville, and in the latter part of the year settled on section 16, in Monterey township. He first engaged in driving an ox-team, hauling logs. He was not accustomed to the climate and was soon taken with a fever and ague and was compelled to retire to Delphos. As soon as he recovered, he began working in a cooper shop at that place. He learned the trade, and followed it for nine years, and then returned to Ottoville, where, in 1860, he started a mercantile business, and became one of the first merchants in that town. W. H. Beckman, alone, having preceded him. Mr. Otte at once formed a partnership with Mathias Winkleman, but in 1887, the latter sold his interest in the business, and Mr. Otte held control until 1891, when he sold out and retired, after an experience of more than thirty years. Mr. Otte was a Democrat and was appointed the second postmaster of Ottoville by President Buchanan; his partner, Mr. Winkleman, having been the first. After Mr. Winkleman's death, Mr. Otte served the unexpired term, about 1880 was reappointed and held the office until 1893. He was an honored and trusted citizen of this locality for thirty years, having filled the office of township treasurer, and other minor offices. He was a notary public during the war, and a member of the home guards, stationed at Camp Lucas, Ohio. Mr. Otte was a devout Catholic. He was a member of the building committee, when the church at Ottoville was erected. Gerhard H. Otte, Sr., was married to Anna Wurst, who was born in 1842, in Crawford county, Ohio. She was the daughter of Joseph and Anna (Keever) Wurst, of Bavaria, Germany, who were early settlers in Ohio. To Gerhard H. and Anna (Wurst) Otte eleven children were born, Joseph G. married and lives in Ottoville; John died in infancy; Anna A. married John Scherer, and lived at Defiance. She is now deceased; Mary C. is the widow of Edward Wannemacher, who died in 1899. She has two daughters, and they live in Ottoville; Gerhard H. is the subject of this sketch; Henry F. died on May 26, 1907; Elizabeth E. is the wife of Charles Rechart. They live in Jackson township; Louise is the wife of Charles Huffart. They live at Toledo, Ohio; Ferdinand W. is deceased; Leo J. lives at Toledo, and William M. lives in Ottoville.

Gerhard H. Otte, Sr., carried on his general store up to the time of his death, which occurred on December 22, 1904. His daughters conducted a millinery shop, connected with the store. Mr. Otte's wife, the mother of the subject of this sketch, died on March 26, 1891.

After the death of the father, Gerhard H. Otte, the subject of this sketch, and his sisters, carried on the father's store until 1907, when they sold out. Gerhard H. then entered business in association with his brother, Leo, in the hotel at Ottoville. This partnership continued about four years, when Leo sold out to Gerhard, and the latter is now running the hotel alone.

Gerhard H. Otte was married on April 15, 1907, to Barbara Thithoff, the daughter of John and Mary (Reiger) Thithoff. John Thithoff was a native of Germany. His wife, Mary (Reiger) Thithoff, was born in Ohio. To Gerhard H. and Barbara (Thithoff) Otte there have been six children, Marcille, Eulitte, Alvera, Elmer, Henry and Gerhard W.

The Otte family are all members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Otte is a Democrat. He has spent his entire life in Ottoville, and is a highly respected and honored citizen.

HENRY WANNEMACHER.

The best title one can establish to the high and generous esteem of an intelligent community is a protracted and honorable residence therein. The subject of this review is one of the best-known and most highly esteemed men of Putnam county, has resided in this locality all his life and his career has been a most commendable one in every respect, well deserving of being perpetuated on the pages of a historical work of this nature. Like his sterling father before him, he has been a man of well-defined purpose and never failed to carry to successful completion any work of enterprise to which he addressed himself.

Henry Wannemacher was born in Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 27, 1859, and is a son of Joseph and Martha (Sterns) Wannemacher, whose life record will be found elsewhere in this volume under the caption "John H. Wannemacher," brother of the subject of this sketch. Henry Wannemacher's early life was spent under the parental roof and he received his education in the neighboring township schools. At the age of twenty-three he was married to Emma Kalt, which event occurred on June 13, 1882. Emma Kalt was the daughter of John and Mary (Walker) Kalt, the former was born in Baden, Germany, on June 3, 1830, and came

to this country alone at the age of nineteen years, where he first located in Allen county, Ohio, and secured employment with the canal company. After working around here a while, he decided to go to California, where he remained about three years and then returned to Allen county. Here he engaged in farming for about two years, then, in 1866, he moved to Delphos, Ohio, and established himself in the grocery business, which he conducted successfully for about thirteen years. In the year 1878 he moved to Putnam county and lived on the farm in Monteroy township, which he had purchased about two years prior to the time he discontinued the grocery business. He spent the most of his life at farming and died on April 29, 1910. His wife came to this country with her parents when about one year old and they settled in Seneca county, Ohio, and it was in the town of New Riegel, Seneca county, that they were wedded. The wife and mother of his children survived until March 11, 1912, and both father and mother are buried at Ottoville, Putnam county. To them were born seven children, William, who lived in Missouri until his death, February 5, 1909; Emma, subject's wife; Charles, who lives in Continental; Mary, the wife of Joseph Imber, who lives in Delphos, Ohio; Frank, who lives in Monterey township; John and Anna (twins), the former living in Payne, Ohio, and the latter the wife of Lou Euchenhofer, who resides in Denver, Colorado.

Soon after Henry Wannemacher's marriage, he settled on the one-hundred-sixty-acre farm, which he owned previously and which lies about three-quarters of a mile west of the town of Ottoville. On this place he made many improvements, including the erection of a splendid barn building and his residence, which is modern in every respect. The general appearance of the place indicated that deep interest has been shown by the owner and that his success, as a farmer, is the result of untiring energy and good management. In addition to this farm, he has also acquired farm properties in other localities, consisting of thirty-nine acres in Van Wert county, this state, and two acres in the town of Ottoville, this county, which he owns, jointly, with his brother, John H. Wannemacher, also a town lot with buildings in Ottoville proper. Mr. Wannemacher devotes his entire time and attention to general farming, and his production of grain and other commodities is done at a good profit.

Mr. Wannemacher has always been identified with the Democratic party and at one time was appointed to the office of land appraiser. While he has not been aggressively engaged in politics, yet he takes considerable interest in civic welfare and is ever ready to lend a helping hand to the furtherance of any good cause for the benefit of the community. He is a member of the

Putnam county board of agriculture and takes great interest in matters pertaining to improved methods of farming and the subject of intensive cultivation of the soil by scientific methods. He is a member of the Catholic church, to which he lends his support. Personally, he is a man that stands high in the community in which he lives, is progressive and at all times ready and willing to consider meritorious enterprises for the material advancement of his county, and for the intellectual, social and moral good of the people. He enjoys the hearty confidence and good will of all who know him and is well worthy of the respect and admiration of his fellow men.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS.

Ohio has been especially honored in the character and career of her farmers. In every section have been found men born to leadership in agriculture and who have dominated their communities because of their superior intelligence, natural endowments and force of character. It is always profitable to study such lives, weigh their motives and hold up their achievements as incentive to greater activity and higher excellence on the part of others. These reflections are suggested by the career of Michael Williams, who has forged to the front ranks of the farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who, for many years, has been one of the leading farmers in this section of Putnam county. Mr. Williams's success has been attained by normal methods and means, a determined application of mental and physical resources along well-defined lines.

Michael Williams was born on October 9, 1865, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Michael and Mary Ann (Frankart) Williams, the former of whom, as well as the latter, were born in Germany. They came to America and settled in Seneca county, Ohio, where they engaged in farming. They farmed in Seneca county for a number of years and then moved to Putnam county, Ohio, on a farm of eighty acres. Later they increased the acreage to one hundred and twenty. To them were born ten children, Tillie, deceased; John; Jacob; Peter; Mary; Michael; Catherine; Emma; Joseph, deceased, and Mary, deceased. Michael Williams died in Palmer township. Mrs. Mary Ann (Frankart) Williams died at Landick, Ohio. Michael Williams was township treasurer for a number of years. He was a stanch Democrat, and a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church. The family were also members of this church.

Michael Williams was educated in Palmer township and, during his

early life, lived on his father's farm. He worked out by the month before his marriage. Mr. Williams was married on June 5, 1886, to Frances Snyder, the daughter of Joseph and Christina (Mueller) Snyder. Joseph and Christina Snyder were natives of Virginia, moving from Virginia to Franklin county, Ohio, where they settled on a farm. After living in Franklin county for some time, they came to Putnam county, Ohio, and lived on a farm in Palmer township. Mrs. Christina (Mueller) Snyder died at the age of eighty-two years on January 7, 1900. Her husband is still surviving and lives with his daughter, Mrs. J. M. Frankart, of Palmer township. He is ninety-six years old. He was a soldier in the Civil War and served in the Twenty-second Regiment, Kentucky Regulars, enlisting at Covington, Kentucky, and serving eleven months. He was married in Virginia. Joseph and Christina Snyder were the parents of nine children, William, Nicholas, George and Mary are deceased. Caroline, Catherine, Rebecca, Frances and James are still living.

After his marriage, Michael Williams moved to a farm in section 10, of Palmer township. This farm originally consisted of twenty acres, but was later increased to forty acres. In the meantime, Mr. Williams bought forty acres more in section 16, making a total of eighty acres. He has erected all the present buildings on the farm and cleared and drained the land and otherwise improved it.

To Michael and Frances (Snyder) Williams one child has been born, Earl M., on July 13, 1887. He married Clara Russett, daughter of Joseph and Catherine Russett, of Palmer township. They have two children, Arlie, born on February 28, 1909, and Hilda, on December 11, 1914. Earl was educated in the township schools and lives with his father. He is a farmer and operates the home farm.

Michael Williams is more or less retired, but still lives on the farm. He is treasurer of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Association. He was a ditch contractor and followed this business in connection with general farming until 1899, when he was injured by falling from the roof of his barn, which was then being built; he was also township ditch supervisor for ten years and has built many ditches in Putnam county, since which time he has given up ditch contracting. The greater part of his time is devoted to overseeing the farm, since his injury rather incapacitates him for the heavier work. He is very alert, mentally, and is much admired for his intelligence and broad view of all public questions. Michael Williams is a man of excellent habits and bears a high reputation in the community in which he lives for honesty and integrity. He is a man of sound business principles and of

decidedly progressive ideas. He is congenial in manner, a kind father and thoroughly devoted to domestic life.

Michael Williams is a member of the St. Nicholas's Catholic church at Miller City. All of the members of the family are affiliated with this church.

LADIS RED.

It will always be a mark of distinction to have served in the United States army during the Philippine War. In fact, the soldier of any war will receive attention, no matter where he goes, if he but make himself known. Ladis Red, the subject of this sketch, and a well-known contractor and builder of Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, now living, however, at Ottoville, performed brilliant service as a soldier in the United States army during the Philippine War. He enlisted in the United States army as a private, and was mustered out at the end of his term of enlistment as a sergeant.

Ladis Red was born near Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 22, 1876. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Red, the former of whom was born in Austria-Hungary, the latter of whom was a native of Putnam county. John Red came to the United States in 1860, and settled at Gilboa, Putnam county. He was a watchmaker by trade, and followed this trade for about three years at Gilboa. He then moved to a farm three miles north of Gilboa, and farmed there until 1881, when he moved to Jackson township, Putnam county and purchased a farm of one hundred acres. He operated this farm until 1893, when he moved to Montana and purchased a store. He operated a general mercantile store and clock and watch repair shop until 1903, when he moved to Alabama. He lived in Alabama for about five years where he followed farming. Returning to Putnam county, he died in March, 1913. His wife is still living on the old homestead. They had five children, three of whom are living: Alvina is the wife of Dan Jones, who is living near Deshler, Ohio; Malinda died in infancy and Malisa died at the age of twenty-two years. She was the wife of George Emmons; Louis lives near Deshler and Ladis is the subject of this sketch.

Ladis Red received a common school education, leaving home at the age of thirteen. Since that time he made his own way in the world. He enlisted at Lima, Ohio, in 1899, in the Twenty-second Regiment United States Infantry, and served in the Luzon Islands and the Philippines for three years. He was a private and a non-commissioned officer, having become a sergeant before his enlistment expired. Mr. Red received his discharge at Fort Crook,

Nebraska, on July 8, 1902. He then returned to Putnam county on July 10, and followed contracting work for about five years. During this time, he built many sewers in this part of the country. He then farmed for two years in Putnam county, and then went into the restaurant business at Kalida, when, after eighteen months, he returned to contracting, and building sewers, at which he worked for about a year. After that, Mr. Red removed to Nebraska, visiting South Dakota and many western states, where he worked for thirteen months. While in the West, he followed carpenter work. Returning to Putnam county in 1911, he settled at Ottoville, where he worked at the carpenter trade. He has followed contracting and building since his last return to Putnam county.

Ladis Red was married on July 16, 1902, to Orvia Anna Tuma, of Omaha, Nebraska. She was the daughter of Joseph Tuma and wife, the former of whom was a native of Germany, and the latter of whom was a native of Holland. Both died in Nebraska. To Ladis and Orvia Anna (Tuma) Red two children have been born, Helen Elizabeth and Marie, both of whom are living at home.

Ladis Red is a highly respected citizen of Monterey township, Putnam county, and is well known as one of its substantial citizens.

JOHN H. DRERUP.

One of the oldest families in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is the Drerup family, which has a splendid ancestry back to their native soil in Germany.

The late John H. Drerup was born in Prussia on August 25, 1835, and in that year was brought to America by his parents, John Bernard and Anna (Werning) Drerup. The family located in the woods south of Glandorf in pioneer times.

John Bernard Drerup was born on April 10, 1799, the son of Bernard Heinrich Drerup, of Norwalde, and Maria Anna (Munsterwig) Drerup. Bernard Heinrich Drerup was born on November 13, 1746, the son of Melchior Drerup, of Norwalde, who was born in 1698, and who married Elizabeth Wilsbaumer. The family has in its possession a printed history which traces the ancestry even further back.

When the Drerup family located in Putnam county, this was all a new country. There were no roads and the Indians were still in possession of the



JOHN H. DIERKE AND FAMILY.



THE BOY'S OWN

land. Food, of course, was scarce and limited in variety until the land could be cleared and crops raised. The people ate leaves from the trees cooked like greens.

The land held by the Drerup family was entered by Professor Horstman in 1835, and was deeded by him to them in September, 1837. They walked to Findlay, following an Indian trail, carrying a sack of corn to have it ground.

John H. Drerup was reared amid the pioneer surroundings of the early days of the county, securing such limited education as was afforded in those times. He married here and his first wife died a year and a half later, leaving no children. He was again married, on June 20, 1865, to Theresa Mersman. She was born at the south edge of Glandorf, and is a sister of George H. Mersman, whose sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume, and which gives the history of her parents. After his marriage Mr. Drerup spent the rest of his life on the farm where he grew up. He was the owner of two hundred and twenty acres at the time of his death, after having given four of his children a substantial start in life. He also owned property in Ottawa.

There were children born to John H. and Theresa (Mersman) Drerup, as follow: John B., on September 18, 1866, married Minnie Hermiller on June 11, 1888, and they live at Portageville, Missouri, and are the parents of four living children; Henry J., December 20, 1868, married Philomena Leopold on February 22, 1897, and now lives in Texas, having a family of seven children; Frank H., May 1, 1871, married Mary Lammers on October 29, 1895, and lives in Demmitt, Texas, and they have a family of eight children; Anna M., May 23, 1876, on October 27, 1904, became the wife of William J. Rieman and lives in Toledo, and they have four children; August C., December 6, 1878, married Mary Fortman on October 22, 1902, lives north of Ottawa and they have a family of three children; Pauline L., August C., December 6, 1878, married Mary Fortman on October 22, 1902, died on November 6, 1904; Edward H., March 5, 1884, married Adelaide Stechschulte, the daughter of Joseph Stechschulte, on June 27, 1911, and lives on the home place, having a family of three children, Walter, Louise and Norma; Fred J., February 26, 1888, married Frances Kreinbrink, the daughter of Theodore Kreinbrink, of Ottawa, on April 26, 1912, and lives in the northeast corner of Ottawa township.

Mrs. Drerup died on March 30, 1915, while one other son, Edward Drerup, and his family continue to live on the old place.

The father of these children died on March 25, 1906. He was a mem-

ber of the Catholic church at Glandorf, as well as were all his family. Years ago he served as trustee of Ottawa township, but did not wish to hold office. His widow still lives on the old home farm with her children, and the family is an old and highly esteemed one, comprising good, substantial citizens who are respected by all.

JOHN H. WANNEMACHER.

In writing the history of a community or state, it is the duty of the historian to make a searching investigation and satisfy himself beyond a reasonable doubt that the subject of his writing shall be worthy of recognition in a work of this nature. In reviewing the records of men in Putnam county, Ohio, who have won the admiration and respect of their fellow men by leading lives which may be referred to as examples of all that is good, and, who have been in some measure a success in themselves and a benefit to mankind at large, the name of John H. Wannemacher stands forth prominently among those entitled to consideration and whose record is that of one who has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life and among his contemporaries has achieved a marked degree of success as a farmer and honored by all owing to his upright life and industrious habits.

John H. Wannemacher was born on his father's farm in Monterey township, this county, January 12, 1857, and is the son of Joseph and Martha (Sterns) Wannemacher. His father was a native of Germany and was born there on March 19, 1827. Up to the age of fourteen he attended the schools in the old country and learned the locksmith trade, which he worked at until about the age of twenty, when he decided to leave for America. He embarked for this country on a sailing vessel on May 1, 1847, the ship being the "Omaha" bound for New York. After being at sea for thirty-six days, he arrived in New York and went to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he secured employment in an iron-mill and remained there for twelve months and then went to New Castle, Pennsylvania, where he was employed in a nail factory for about a year. He decided to discontinue working for others in 1851 and left for the city of Cleveland, where he boarded a vessel and arrived in Putnam county, Ohio, via the Canal Packet line about the 1st of June. He settled in Monterey township, when there were just twenty-six voters in the township, on eighty acres of land in section 26, located about one and one-half miles west of the town of Ottoville. On this tract he lived and devoted his entire time to clearing the land and doing some general farming. He

was elected to the office of township trustee in 1855 and continued to hold that office until 1866, and also served as a land appraiser during the year 1860. In the year 1868 he decided to engage in the general merchandising business and erected a store for that purpose in the town of Ottoville, during which year he was appointed justice of the peace. He continued the store until twenty-two years later and then decided to retire from active business. He was the first notary public in Monteroy township and was the first mayor of Ottoville. He was also a member of the local school board and held the office of justice of the peace until about the time of his death. Subject's father was twice married, the first time, April 17, 1854, to Martha Stern, and to them were born nine children, six of whom are living, as follow: Mary, widow of Anton Fleck, who lives in Delphos; John H., the subject; Henry, who lives in Monteroy township; Adam, who lives in Pennsylvania; Godfrey, who lives in Monteroy township, and Katherine, wife of John Recket, and who died about 1903. The mother of these children lived until the year 1878. The second marriage occurred on January 26, 1887, to Mrs. Barbara Sufert, in Bucyrus, Ohio. By a prior marriage she had one child, Mary. The father lived until September 25, 1906, when he died, at the age of seventy-nine years, six months and six days.

John H. Wannemacher received his early education in the township schools and later on clerked in his father's general store for seven or eight years and remained with him until the time of his marriage, at which time he took Emma Rekart to be his wife. She was the daughter of Joseph and Catherine Rekart, both natives of Germany and whose respective parents settled and remained in Putnam county, Ohio, until the time of their deaths. To John H. and Emma (Rekart) Wannemacher were born ten children, eight of whom are living, named in the order of their births as follow: Joseph B., on February 27, 1881; Henry A., November 10, 1882; Matilda, March 26, 1885; Sylvester H., December 17, 1885; Albert T., July 6, 1889; Florentina M., October 1, 1891; Oliva M., October 27, 1894; Leo J., March 14, 1896; Lawrence J., April 8, 1898; Vincent O., January 7, 1901. Of these Joseph B. died in July, 1907, and Oliva M. died on October 27, 1894.

Soon after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Wannemacher they established themselves on the original eighty acres belonging to his father and which land has been in the Wannemacher family for more than sixty years. Mr. Wannemacher has added to this land from time to time, and the present holdings consist of three hundred and twenty acres of high grade farm land and a great many improvements have been made in the way of new buildings, which include the erection of a fine barn and remodeling of the old house to

make it modern in every respect. Besides agriculture, Mr. Wannemacher makes a specialty of raising Belgian horses and has a farm for this purpose, situated about one and three-quarter miles southwest of the town of Ottoville. His possessions include some exceptionally well-bred Belgian stallions and they are a source of great pride to the owner.

Mr. Wannemacher is a Democrat and is a strong advocate of the progressive principles of his party's platform. He has held the office of township trustee for three terms and justice of the peace for about four terms, also acts as a member of the local school board and takes a great interest in educational matters, to which he has given his attention to a large extent for the past eighteen years. At the present time he is holding the office of treasurer and clerk of the school board, also is a stockholder in the Ottoville Bank, of which institution he has been a director ever since its organization. He is also a director of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Ottoville. Mr. Wannemacher is not connected with any fraternal societies, but he and his family are members of the Catholic church of Ottoville, to which they contribute liberally for all worthy causes. Personally, Mr. Wannemacher is a man of genial nature and a very agreeable companion, enjoying a large circle of friends, and it is safe to say that no man in the community enjoys, to a greater measure, the confidence and regard of the people than he.

JOHN SYLVESTER SCHAFER.

John Sylvester Schafer, who is at present engaged in the manufacture of tile, brick and hollow-ware, in North Creek, Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, and who has built up a large and lucrative business by his enterprise and progressive methods, has contributed, in a material way, to the commercial advancement of Palmer township. Mr. Schafer is possessed of splendid business ability and has been successful in a material way. He is a man who enjoys the confidence of the people with whom he deals and is well known for his sterling integrity and upright, honorable methods of business dealings.

John Sylvester Schafer was born on February 18, 1866, in section 7, of Palmer township, on the old homestead farm. He is the son of William and Mary (Morris) Schafer, the former of whom was born in Koenig, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and came to America with his parents in 1854. They settled in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, where William

Schafer was married to Mary Morris, the daughter of Judge Morris, August 6, 1863. With his young wife, he moved to Palmer township, Putnam county, in March, 1864, and settled on a farm, where he and his wife resided until their deaths. At the time they moved to Palmer township, the land was almost an unbroken forest and abounded with all kinds of game and wild animals. William Schafer cleared the timber from most of the farm with his own hands. He was quite active in politics, being a Democrat. He held several offices of trust and confidence. In April, 1867, he was elected justice of the peace of Palmer township, and held this office for twelve consecutive terms, or until his death. He was twice elected township treasurer, and once township trustee. He was elected county commissioner in 1875, and held this office for six years. In March, 1879, William Schafer was appointed postmaster of North Creek and held this office until McKinley was elected President of the United States.

William and Mary (Morris) Schafer had twelve children, Henry P., born on September 11, 1864; John Sylvester, the subject of this sketch; Margaret Catherine, September 19, 1867; William W., December 17, 1869; George Lewis, December 12, 1871; Charles C., September 26, 1874; Sarah E., August 22, 1876; Mary Emaline, June 17, 1878; Ida Lavina, August 19, 1880; Benjamin F., August 11, 1882; Surilda Laura May, July 13, 1884, died on September 1, 1903; and Joseph J., May 19, 1887. Five of the sons and one daughter reside in Putnam county and the other five reside in different states. Mrs. Mary Schafer died on October 10, 1902, and her husband, William Schafer, died on January 1, 1903.

John Sylvester Schafer grew up on the homestead farm of his parents and was educated in the old district school No. 3. He learned the blacksmith trade at the age of seventeen years and started a shop at North Creek, Ohio, which he conducted for twenty-three years.

John Sylvester Schafer was married on April 28, 1889, to Mary Ellen Rangler, who was born in Defiance county, Ohio, in Highland township, on October 19, 1863. She is the daughter of Samuel and Lydia Ann (Masters) Rangler. Mrs. Mary Schafer's father, of German descent, was born in Pennsylvania. He came to Ohio with his parents and settled in Hancock county on a farm and there grew up. He was reared as a farmer and educated in the common schools of Hancock county. His grandparents were also natives of Pennsylvania and came to Hancock county, where they farmed until their death. Samuel Rangler was married in Hancock county, Ohio, and farmed there for some time. Later, he came to Highland township, Defiance county, Ohio, where he settled on a farm of eighty acres. He

afterward sold this farm and purchased eighty acres in the same township, which he farmed until his death, in 1872. His wife died in 1870 or 1871, and after this he was married to Margaret Sponsler, who later died. Mrs. Lydia Ann Masters, his first wife, was a native of Pennsylvania. Her parents and grandparents were natives of England. Her parents, William Henry Masters and wife, were born in England and married there. Subsequently, they came to America and settled in Pennsylvania, where he was a farmer and where they both died on a farm.

Samuel and Lydia Ann Rangler, the parents of Mrs. Schafer, had seven children, Elizabeth, deceased; William Henry, of Defiance county, Ohio; Daniel; Alonzo and Clarinda, all deceased; Mary Ellen, the wife of Mr. Schafer; and John H., of Whiteville, Wood county, Ohio.

John Sylvester Schafer remained at home until his marriage, after which he lived at North Creek, Ohio. He traveled four seasons for the Walter A. Wood Harvester Machinery Company, during the harvesting season, as an expert. He was engaged as a blacksmith in a shop of his own for many years. He was an expert at this trade. On March 15, 1908, Mr. Schafer bought the tile mill of John Meyer, in Henry county, Ohio, and moved it to North Creek. He remodeled and enlarged it and continues to operate the mill, from which he ships its products to many different parts of the country. Mr. Schafer is now installing special machinery for the manufacture of hollow-ware. He enjoys a large and lucrative business.

John S. and Mary Ellen (Rangler) Schafer have eight children, William Henry, born on May 14, 1890; James Franklin, January 27, 1893; Mary Margaret, August 20, 1895; Clyde and Ida Levina, twins, July 6, 1897; John Edward, December 17, 1901; Carl Clifford, February 20, 1903; and Forest Joseph, November 4, 1908. William Henry lives at Curtis, Ohio, where he is a steam engineer for the McCracken Tile Company. James Franklin married Iva Hughes and lives at Plymouth, Ohio. The remainder of the children are at home. John, Carl and Forest attend No. 3 district school, of Palmer township.

Mr. Schafer is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 745, at Pleasant Bend, Ohio. He has passed through all the chairs of the lodge and is now past chancellor. He is a member of the National Engineer Society of America and belongs to branch No. 21, at Lima, Ohio. Mr. Schafer has served as justice of the peace since 1903. He has been township clerk and road supervisor, but is not active now. He was appointed, under Governor Cox, on the board of complaints of Ottawa, Ohio, for three years and he is now serving his second year. Throughout his life he has been active in the

affairs of the Democratic party and has contributed much to the success of that party in this county. Mr. Schafer is a member of the Free Baptist church and Mrs. Schafer is a member of the United Brethren church, at Mt. Zion, Monroe township, Putnam county.

John S. Schafer is a congenial man, well-read and well-informed. He is a man of splendid business ability. He comes of an excellent family and is widely and favorably known. He is a kind father and, above all, is a man of upright character.

RALPH S. KIRKENDALL.

Dependent very largely upon his own resources, Ralph S. Kirkendall has attained no insignificant success, and though he may have encountered obstacles like most young men of affairs, and met with reverses, he has pushed steadily forward and has ever been willing to work for the object of his ambition. His tenacity and fortitude are due, no doubt in a large measure, to worthy traits inherited from his sterling ancestors, whose high ideals and correct principles he has ever sought to emulate. Ralph S. Kirkendall is one of the well-known young farmers of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Ralph S. Kirkendall was born in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, on July 17, 1891. Ralph S. Kirkendall is the son of Henry and Anna (Simon) Kirkendall. Henry Kirkendall was born in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, February 18, 1858. He spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Union township, and was educated in the public schools in Union township, where he was reared as a farmer. He was engaged in operating his father's farm and worked out by the month on various farms until his marriage. He was married in Greensburg township, to Anna Simon, the daughter of Louis Simon, whose life history appears elsewhere in this volume.

Suffice it to say here in this place, that Louis Simon has long been one of the leading farmers in Putnam county, having been born here on April 24, 1838, the son of John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon. John P. Simon was born in Germany, on the Rhine, and there married Savilla Genshimer, who was also a native of Germany, born in 1812. John P. and Savilla (Genshimer) Simon had the following children: John; Catherine and Philip, both deceased; Lewis, the father of Mrs. Kirkendall; Jacob, who died in childhood; Barbara, who married Michael Rinkle; Louisa, deceased; Sophia, who married the Rev. Philip Kesler; Mrs. A. L. Hauck; Anna, who

married W. J. Varner; Savilla, the wife of J. W. Purnell; Elizabeth, deceased, and John Adam, who died at the age of ten years. John P. Simon was a prominent man in this part of the country and died on April 29, 1888. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Presbyterian church. John P. Simon's first wife died in 1856. Two years later he married Mrs. Margaret M. Landis, and they had one son, Adam, born in 1859. Mr. Simon's third wife was Mrs. Margaret Hedges, who died on March 25, 1895. Louis Simon was married on April 13, 1861, to Barbara M. Dangler, daughter of George and Fannie (Fender) Dangler. The following children were born to Louis and Barbara M. (Dangler) Simon: Anna, who became the wife of Ralph S. Kirkendall, Veronica married George Ridenour; John A. and Barbara died in infancy. Mrs. Barbara M. (Dangler) Simon died on May 11, 1868. Lewis Simon was married again on March 18, 1870, to Jennie Apger, the daughter of John R. and Elizabeth Apger, who was born on February 10 1847. Eight children were born to this second marriage, as follow: Mary L., who died on October 31, 1876; Charles E.; Chester L.; Ora A.; Lewis W.; Blanch; Ralph B.; and an infant that died.

After his marriage, Henry Kirkendall moved to Palmer township, where he farmed eighty acres of land. Later, he purchased seventy-five acres adjoining, in section 28. Here he followed general farming until his death on August 16, 1914, at the age of fifty-eight. Outside of a short time spent in Union county, Ohio, he lived most of his life in Palmer township, Putnam county. He improved his farm in Palmer township and erected the buildings and drained the land and fenced the farm. He was not a member of any lodge. He served as township trustee for two terms. He was a Democrat and was not a member of any church. His widow survives him and lives on the home place, in Palmer township, with Ralph S. Kirkendall, her son and the subject of this sketch, who operates the farm for his mother. Henry and Anna (Simon) Kirkendall had five children: Lula married Samuel Elsea, and they live in Indianapolis, Indiana; Fay lives in Indianapolis; Ralph S. and Chester live at home; one child died in infancy. Chester is attending high school at Continental, Ohio.

Ralph S. Kirkendall was married on August 26, 1914, to Joycie Troyer, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Burkmeyer) Troyer.

Having grown up on the home farm in Palmer township, Ralph S. Kirkendall was educated in the township schools. After his marriage, he continued to live on the homestead, which he farms and manages for his mother. In the fall of 1914, Mrs. Henry Kirkendall added forty acres to

the original one hundred and fifty-five and they now own one hundred and ninety-five acres.

Ralph S. Kirkendall is not a member of any lodge and has held no offices, but is identified with the fortunes of the Democratic party. Although he was reared in the United Brethren faith, he is not a member of any church. Mrs. Kirkendall is a member of the Keiferville United Brethren church and was educated in the Palmer township schools. Ralph S. Kirkendall is a congenial young man, a hard worker and devotes his entire time to farming, his chosen vocation. He is favorably known in this section of the county and the family are highly esteemed by those who know them.

WILLIAM BALL.

The history of the Buckeye state is a record of the steady growth of many flourishing communities planted in the wilderness by the sturdy pioneers of a departed generation. These communities have reached great magnitude today, and have become prosperous with fertile farms and neatly-kpt buildings, good roads and a progressive social spirit. Each county has had its share in the story and every county can lay claim to some incident which goes to make up the history of the commonwealth. After all, the history of a state or county is but the record of the doings of its people, among whom the pioneers and their sturdy descendants have places of no secondary importance. One of the well-known families of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, is that of the Balls, and one of the present-day representatives of this family, who is a well-known farmer of Palmer township, is William Ball.

William Ball was born on August 25, 1860, in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of Ferdinand and Emaline (Gross) Ball. Ferdinand Ball was born on August 25, 1825, in Germany, and was a son of Barney and Mary M. Ball. Ferdinand Ball came with his parents to America at the age of five years, and settled in Stark county, Ohio. His parents had been farmers in Germany and settled on a farm in that county in the early pioneer days. Ferdinand was reared on this farm, and his parents had the following children: Barney, George, Mathias, John, Ferdinand, Caroline, Eva, Mary, Elizabeth, all of whom, except Magdalene and three others whose names are not now a matter of record. The last three named are deceased; Magdalene is also deceased.

Ferdinand Ball was educated in the public schools of Carroll and Seneca counties, Ohio, and on May 13, 1845, was married to Emeline Gross. He had learned the blacksmith trade and was considered an expert in this line. His parents migrated from Stark county, Ohio, to either Carroll or Seneca county, Ohio, where they farmed, and then moved to Putnam county, and here they bought forty acres of land in section 7, of Palmer township, where Barney Ball and his wife both died. Ferdinand Ball farmed his father's place, and also operated a blacksmith shop, which was located on the farm. He, subsequently, increased this forty acres, by hard work and rigid economy, to nearly two hundred acres of good land, all lying in Palmer township. He had a farm of forty acres in Monroe township, Putnam county, and followed agricultural pursuits all his life, having retired from active work in the blacksmith shop some time before his death, which occurred on January 16, 1910, at which time he had reached the age of eighty-five years. He was a man of strong physical proportions, a prudent business man and well liked in his neighborhood. He was not a member of any lodge and cared nothing for political office, devoted all his time to his family and to his business interests and was a stanch and devout member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria, Ohio, and later of St. Joseph's church at North Creek, to which latter institution he donated the ground, comprising three acres, on which is erected the St. Joseph's church. He gave liberally to the support of the church, both financially and by his regular attendance. Both his parents died on the home farm, in section 7, where William Ball was born.

Emeline Gross, the mother of William Ball, was born on June 10, 1831, near Luxemburg, Germany, and came with her parents to America when she was quite young. They settled in Stark county, Ohio, where they operated a farm, and here their daughter grew to womanhood. She was married to Ferdinand Ball on May 13, 1845. She was a good mother, kind and patient and always worked with zeal and effort to build up her home, and did nobly her share toward building up the family fortunes. Her death occurred on December 26, 1895. She was an active and devoted member of the St. Joseph's church at North Creek.

Ferdinand and Emeline (Gross) Ball were the parents of eight children: Henry, living on the old homestead farm in Palmer township; John, who is also living on the home farm; George, a merchant at North Creek, Ohio; William, the immediate subject of this sketch; Mrs. Mary Engleman, of North Creek, Ohio; Catherine, deceased; Susanna, living on the home farm, and Martin, who is married and lives in Palmer township.

Ferdinand Ball enlisted at Defiance, Ohio, in the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in 1864, and served until the close of the war.

William Ball was married on May 26, 1896, to Louisa Motto, who was born in Hancock county, Ohio, and who is a daughter of John and Malena (Raclot) Motto. Mrs. Ball's father was born in the village of Boncourt, France, in 1830, where he received his education and where there he was married. He was reared a farmer and was a son of Peter Motto and wife, both natives of France. Peter Motto had a family of five children, Malena, Nicholas, John, Adolph and one other. Peter Motto's wife died in France, after which he came to America and settled in Hancock county, Ohio, on a farm, and here he lived the remainder of his life. His son, John, came to America after his marriage, and after the birth of his first two children in France. These children were Theophilus and Emily, both of whom are deceased. John Motto bought forty acres of land in Hancock county, Ohio, where he farmed for some time, later selling it and moving to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1862, where he purchased eighty acres of uncleared land. This land was heavily timbered, wild and swampy, and was located in section 4, of Palmer township. Mr. Motto farmed this land until his death in 1899, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was not a member of any lodge and held no offices except that of school director of his township. He had a splendid education and was a well-informed man. He was an active Democrat, and was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek, Ohio. His wife, Malena, was also a native of France. Her parents were Peter Raclot and wife, both of whom died in France. Mrs. John Motto died on the homestead farm in Palmer township, March 14, 1914, at the age of eighty-one years. John Motto and wife were the parents of five children: Theophilus, deceased; Amelia, deceased; Mrs. Salena Warnament, deceased; Theodore, who lives in section 4, of Palmer township, on the homestead farm of eighty acres, which he owns and where he has farmed until recent years, when he retired from active farm work, and rents out the farm to reliable tenants, but he still maintains his residence on the farm. He never married. Louisa, the fifth child of Mr. and Mrs. John Motto, is the wife of Mr. Ball.

Mr. and Mrs. Ball have no children. Mr. Ball was educated at district school No. 3, Palmer township, and grew up on the home farm, where he was reared to the life of a farmer. He remained at home, assisting with the work on the farm, until his marriage, when he moved to a farm of eighty acres near the original homestead. Forty acres of this farm was

deeded to him by his father, and Mr. Ball purchased the additional tract of forty acres. He operated this farm for some time and then sold it and bought his present farm of sixty-six acres in section 5, of Palmer township. He removed to this farm, in 1907, and farmed here in a general way until 1912, when he retired from active farming, renting out the fields, but maintains his residence on the farm.

Mr. Ball has held no public offices, and is not a member of any lodge. He is a Democrat. He is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church at North Creek, and his wife is also a faithful and devout member of this church. Mr. Ball is a quiet and unassuming man and an excellent farmer. His farm is well located and his home and barn and other splendid outbuildings indicate that their owner is a man of good taste and sound judgment. Mr. Ball cleared his first farm, fenced and drained it, and also ditched and improved his present farm and put it into its present good condition, and by close application to his agricultural interests, he has managed to have a good income laid by for his declining years. He is a man of sterling character and well known, bearing a high reputation for fairness. He comes of a good old family, who were sturdy pioneers and who did their share toward building up the farming interests of Putnam county.

GEORGE BALL.

There are few better known merchants and farmers living in Putnam county than George Ball, who, for nearly thirty years, has been engaged in the mercantile business at North Creek, Ohio, and who, for several years, has owned a splendid farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres in Palmer township. Mr. Ball, who is in partnership in the mercantile business at North Creek with W. H. Engleman, has here built up a large and flourishing business, which is the result of painstaking effort to please his customers, and scrupulous dealings with the public.

George Ball, the son of Ferdinand and Emaline (Gross) Ball, was born on October 24, 1857, in Stark county, Ohio, near the city of Canton. Ferdinand Ball was born on August 25, 1825, in Germany, and was the son of Barney and Mary M. Ball. Ferdinand Ball came with his parents to America when five years old, and settled with them in Stark county, Ohio, where they were pioneer farmers. He was reared on the farm, and was one of nine

children, the others being Barney, George, Mathias, John, Caroline, Eva, Mary and Elizabeth, Magdalene and three others whose names are not now a matter of record, all of whom are now deceased, except Eva, Mary and Elizabeth. Educated in the public schools of Carroll and Seneca counties, Ohio, Ferdinand Ball was married to Emaline Gross, May 13, 1845, and having learned the blacksmith trade before his marriage, came to be regarded as an expert in this line. Migrating with his parents to a farm in section 7, of Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio, Ferdinand lived with them until their death. By hard and consistent work, and rigorous economy, he was able, from the profits of the farm and his labors as a blacksmith, to accumulate two hundred acres of good land, all in Palmer township. He also owned forty acres in Monroe township. He passed away on January 16, 1910, after having reached the age of eighty-five years. Devoted to the interests of his family and his business, he cared little about politics or holding office. He was a stanch member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria, and donated the ground upon which was erected the church building. Mrs. Emaline (Gross) Ball, the mother of our subject, was born on June 10, 1831, near Luxemburg, Germany, and who had come with her parents to America when a girl, grew to womanhood in Stark county, Ohio. A good mother, a kind and patient wife, who did nobly her share toward building up the family fortunes, she passed away, December 26, 1895. She also had been a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic church at New Bavaria. George Ball, himself, was one of a family of eight children. Of these children, Henry lives on the old homestead farm in Palmer township; John also lives on the home farm; William is living retired on his farm in Palmer township; Mrs. Mary Engleman lives at North Creek; Catherine is deceased, and Suzanna lives on the home farm.

Having left Stark county, Ohio, at the age of eighteen months, with his parents, who eventually settled in Putnam county on forty acres of land which they cleared and improved, George Ball here grew to manhood, and was educated in the old district No. 3 school. He farmed until 1887, when he entered the mercantile business with W. H. Engleman, at North Creek. Mr. Ball is a partner in the business and owns a half interest in the store. He is still active in its management.

George Ball was married on May 10, 1893, to Carrie Yearling, a native of Franklin county, Ohio, and a daughter of Adam and Catherine (Miller) Yearling. George and Carrie (Yearling) Ball have had eight children, as follow: Grace Anna, born on March 13, 1894; Clinton William, September

21, 1896; Raymond Martin, February 16, 1898; Emaline Catherine, November 14, 1900; Clara Bertha, September 13, 1902; Matilda Mary, February 1, 1905; Nelson Lewis, August 31, 1907, and Helen Theresa, September 14, 1909. All of these children are living at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Ball removed to the property in North Creek, Ohio, where he now resides. Having acquired one hundred and sixty-seven acres of fine land in Palmer township, he divides his attention somewhat between the farm and his mercantile business. Mr. Ball's sons, however, farm all the land except eighty acres which he rents out.

A Democrat, Mr. Ball has never been ambitious to hold office, but has devoted his life and his energies to his interests. He is known to be a keen business man and a man with a remarkable perception. He is especially devoted to his home and to his family. He is a well-known and favorably liked in this community.

JOSEPH BOECKER.

It is the farmer who makes possible for men in other occupations the sustaining power of life. Farming was the original occupation of man and it is the only occupation which can exist independently of the others. Indeed, every occupation is dependent upon the farmer. The products of the farm have made our railroads what they are today. The great bulk of manufacturing is made necessary by the farmer's needs. The people of the city could not live a week without the farmer's products. He holds not only the purse-strings of the nation, but even the very life of the people. For this reason the farmer has in reality the most important profession of all. Putnam county has fine farms and good farmers, among whom is Joseph Boecker, of Perry township.

Joseph Boecker was born on June 29, 1889, close to Glandorf, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William and Bernadina (Lefken) Boecker. William Boecker was born in Glandorf, Germany, and came to America when a young man, with his brother Charles, and settled in Ottawa township, Putnam county. He farmed for a time and later purchased forty acres in Ottawa township, and forty acres in Greensburg township. He married Bernadina Lefken, who was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio. She died in 1898, and William Boecker has never married again. He farmed in Ottawa and Greensburg township for some time after his marriage, and came to Jackson township, March 20, 1895, where he

purchased one hundred and sixteen acres of excellent land. He moved to this farm on March 7, 1908, and bought one hundred and twenty acres in Perry township, a little later. He never operated the farm in Perry township, however, but rented sixty acres of it to his son, Joseph, the subject of this sketch, and also rented about sixty acres to his other son, August. William Boecker lives on the home place in Jackson township and is engaged in general farming. He and his wife had twelve children, as follow: Mrs. Tracy Brinkman, who lives in Jackson township; Henry, who is deceased; August lives in Perry township; Edward, who is deceased; Anna, who lives on the home place in Jackson township; Joseph, the subject of this sketch; Bernard and Francis, who live at home; William, deceased; Harry and Mary live at home, and one child, who died in infancy. William Boecker is a member of St. Barbara's Catholic church at Cloverdale, Ohio. He is not a member of any lodge, nor has he held office. He has been a life-long farmer, and, during his entire life, has been identified with the fortunes of the Democratic party.

Joseph Boecker grew up on the farm in Ottawa township, and was educated in the township schools. He remained at home until his marriage, after which time he removed to his present farm in Perry township. He built the house and barn and, in fact, all of the other buildings now situated on the place. Mr. Boecker has ditched, fenced and cleared and improved the farm. Lately he has erected an addition to the barn. He follows general farming.

Joseph Boecker was married on November 15, 1911, to Flora Unterbrink, daughter of Barney and Agnes (Kracht) Unterbrink. Mrs. Boecker was born in Greensburg township on December 5, 1886. Her parents were both natives of Ohio and follow general farming. They removed to a farm of one hundred acres in Perry township, about 1902. Mrs. Boecker's paternal grandparents came from Germany.

To Joseph and Flora (Unterbrink) Boecker one child, Clarence, has been born, on October 27, 1912.

Joseph Boecker is not a member of any lodge nor has he ever been active in politics. He is identified with the Democratic party, however. Mr. Boecker has given almost his undivided attention to the cultivation of his farm, and has in a comparatively brief period, made a rather unusual success in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Boecker are members of St. Barbara's Catholic church at Cloverdale, Ohio. They are prominent in the affairs of this church and contribute liberally toward its support.

ISAAC E. BOGART.

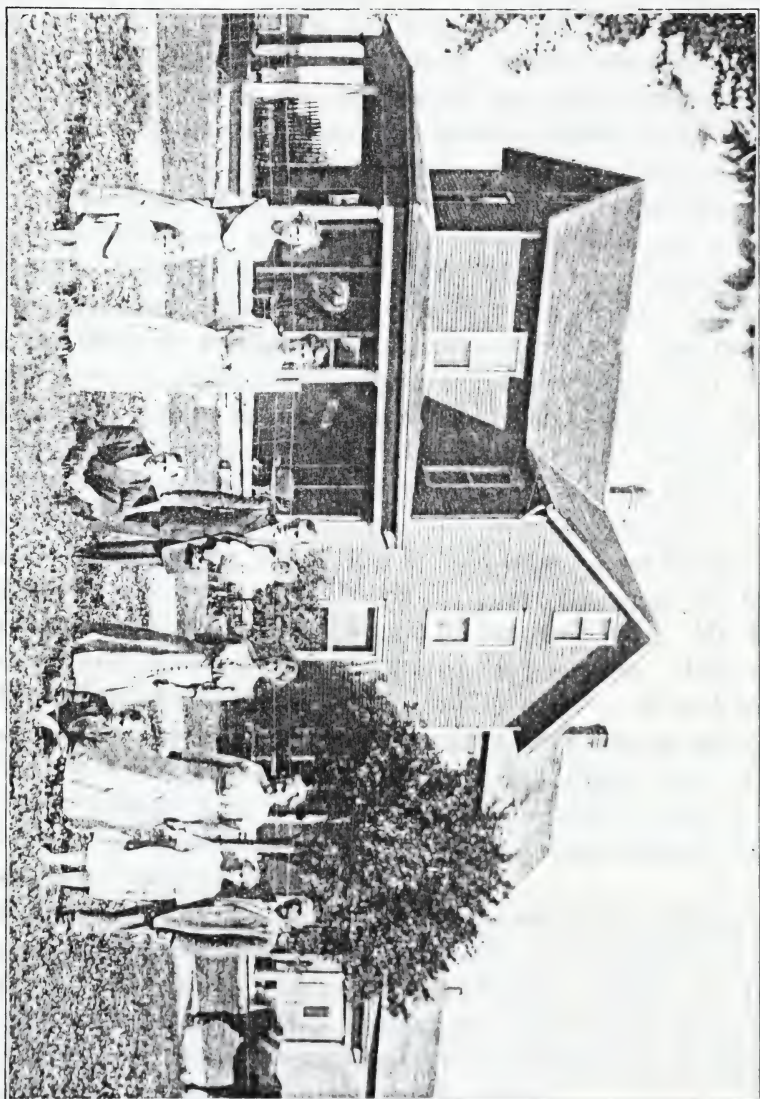
In the anxious and laborious struggle for an honorable competency and substantial career on the part of the average business man, fighting the everyday battles of life, there is but little to attract the idle reader in search of a sensational chapter. For a mind fully awake to the reality and meaning of human existence, there are noble and immortal lessons in the lives of men who, without other means than a clear mind, a strong arm and a true heart, conquer fortune and gain not only temporary reward for their toil, but also that which is greater and higher, the respect and confidence of those with whom their years of active life have placed them in contact. A man of this character is Isaac E. Bogart, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Isaac E. Bogart was born on March 18, 1863, in Pleasant township, near Columbus Grove. He is the son of John and Frances (Frusehey) Bogart.

Spending his boyhood days on the home farm from the time he was eight years old until he was married, Isaac E. Bogart now lives on the home place to which his father moved when his son was eight years old. Mr. Bogart traveled as a road salesman for J. O. Keller, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, a patent medicine concern, during a part of three years, in Hardin and Union counties, Ohio, before he was married. He traveled from his father's home in Putnam county, driving to these other counties, and here learned the valuable points about salesmanship. Subsequently he returned to the farm and helped on the home place, cutting and hauling timber with his brother.

Mr. Bogart was married, March 1, 1888, to Rosa Beam, a native of Union township, Putnam county, and the daughter of Amos and Mary (Burkhart) Beam. To this union seven children have been born, two of whom died in infancy. The five children living are Orville Ray, Mary Frances, Blanche, Iva and John Amos. Orville Ray married Floy Eversole, a native of Allen county, and has two children, Harold Milton and Bona Marie. He lives on a farm adjoining his father's home place. Mary Frances married Roy Vandemarke, a native of Union township, Putnam county, and a farmer in Pleasant township. The three latter children are still at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Bogart rented sixty acres of land in Union township of Henry Beam, his wife's brother. He lived here one year and then moved to Perry township and rented a farm for a period of three years, when he purchased forty acres of Silas Clark, in Union township, and farmed here for about one year. Subsequently he sold out and moved to the farm



ISAAC E. BOGAERT AND FAMILY.



owned by his father-in-law, where they established the first herd of Shorthorn cattle. They had from thirty-five to forty head, obtaining their start from John Miller, of Peru, Indiana. Mr. Bogart has exhibited this herd four seasons in the Ohio fair circuit, two seasons at the Columbus state fair, in 1898, at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, where he took first, second and third premiums in the class shows, and every premium in getting the grand sweepstakes on the age herd, general purpose breed, etc. Mr. Bogart followed this for a period of five years, when Mr. Beam died and a settlement was made and the herd sold. At this time Mr. Bogart had nothing left but his household goods and family. He went south to find a new location for cattle breeding purposes, but later returned to Putnam county. He rented the home farm, where he is now living, for a period of three years, and during the first year purchased two eighty-acre tracts of land from Mr. Beardsley, of Ottawa, which tracts adjoin the home place. Mr. Bogart rented the east eighty acres, of the one hundred and sixty acre tract, to William Schumaker for cash rent and farmed the home place and the other eighty acres himself. The one hundred and sixty acres cost him ten thousand dollars. Later, Mr. Bogart moved to his one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract and farmed for six years, during which time he sold eighty acres because of ill health. Later he purchased a portion of the home farm and his brother bought the balance. Subsequently, he bought his brother's share. Mr. Bogart rebuilt his house on his present place and moved there in 1909. He has made extensive improvements upon the residence, until he now has an ideal, modern country home. The other buildings on the farm were erected before Mr. Bogart moved to it, except a new garage, which Mr. Bogart built in June, 1914. He has a splendid barn, thirty by fifty feet, of hewed lumber and sixteen-foot posts, eight inches square. Mr. Bogart follows general farming and is an extensive raiser of live stock and grain.

Reverting to Mr. Bogart's ancestry, he is the son of John Bogart, who was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, on September 28, 1885. John Bogart was the son of Jacob and Mary (Yaeger) Bogart, the former of whom was born in Pennsylvania, in 1803, and who died in 1857, at the age of fifty-five years. Mary Yaeger was born in Pennsylvania in 1803, and died June 20, 1881, at the age of seventy-eight years.

John Bogart came with his parents to Putnam county when a young man and settled in Pleasant township. He remained on the farm with his father until his marriage, August 18, 1849, to Frances Fruschey, a native of Fairfield county, Ohio, born on September 20, 1830, and the daughter of

Frederick and Elizabeth (Welton) Fruschey. Frederick Fruschey was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1792, and died in 1854 at the age of sixty-two years. His wife was a native of Virginia, born in 1802, and died in 1854, at the age of fifty-two years. She had come with her parents to Fairfield county, Ohio, and here she was married. After the marriage, she came with her husband to Putnam county. Subsequent to his marriage, John Bogart rented a farm and later purchased one northwest of Columbus Grove. With the exception of three years which he spent in Missouri, he has spent all of his life in Putnam county. He was a life-long farmer and died on the homestead farm where his son, Isaac E., now lives. He was a stanch and active Republican and a member of the United Brethren church. His wife was also a member of this church at Columbus Grove. They were the parents of eleven children: Jesse, deceased; Frederick, deceased; Jacob, of Pleasant township; William, of Columbus Grove; Mary Annie, deceased; Reeder, deceased; Mrs. Alice Moeller, of Sugar Creek township; Mrs. Alma Wagner, a twin sister of Mrs. Alice Moeller, who lives with her mother in Columbus Grove; Isaac E., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Caroline Sterling, of Parkin, Arkansas, and Mrs. Sarah Ellen Cartwright, of Waterville, Ohio. Mrs. John Bogart is still living with her daughter, Mrs. Alma Wagner, at Columbus Grove. She came to Putnam county with her parents at the age of ten years, who settled upon a farm a short distance from Columbus Grove. Her father owned a fourth section of land and was a successful farmer. She spent her womanhood in Putnam county and was married there. Her father conducted a hotel in the village as early as 1844.

As heretofore mentioned, Mrs. Isaac E. Bogart is the daughter of Amos and Mary (Burkhart) Beam. Amos Beam during his life was a well-known citizen and farmer of Union township, a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Jacob and Rosa (Kerns) Beam, also natives of Pennsylvania. Amos Beam, who was born on June 27, 1823, was the grandson of Peter Beam, who was born on December 5, 1872, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and who died December 8, 1808. Peter and his brother, John, were members of the German Lutheran church. Jacob Beam, the son of Peter Beam, and the father of Amos, was born in Lancaster county, April 13, 1796, and about 1819 was married to Rosa Kerns, the daughter of Abraham and Barbara Kerns. To this union were born eight children, Maria, the wife of Matthias Stauffer, deceased; Amos, deceased; Mrs. Susanna Miller, deceased; Elizabeth, the wife of Daniel Shipper, deceased; Mrs. Katie Burkhart, deceased; Isaac, deceased; Sarah, the wife of I. E. Musselman, a merchant of Bowmansville, Pennsylvania; and John, a

farmer of the same state. Jacob Beam, who was a member of the Lutheran church, died on November 25, 1878. His son, Amos Beam, who, as heretofore stated, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on June 27, 1823, having arrived at manhood, was married in Breckenock township, Lancaster county, at the bride's home, August 12, 1847, to Mary Burkhart. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. Drom Comer. They began the toils of married life with the thought of obtaining a home. About this time emigration was drifting to what was known then as the "Far West," and what now comprises the great state of Ohio. In the spring of 1854, having concluded that the West was the place to seek for a home, Amos Beam and wife set out for Ohio, leaving their fathers, mothers and friends for what was then the great dismal Black swamp. Coming partly by rail and partly by land, they arrived in Putnam county, a few miles east of Pandora. After living there for only a short time, they again started westward and stopped this time about four and one-half miles west of Columbus Grove, on what is now the Columbus Grove and Kalida road, where they purchased forty acres of land. Being a shoemaker by trade, he cleared and tilled his land by day and made boots and shoes at night. Having accumulated some wealth by this time, he purchased another eighty acres adjoining the original forty and in the spring of 1863, sold this farm and moved a mile farther north and one mile east, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. Here he began to lay the foundation for a permanent home.

To Mr. and Mrs. Amos Beam were born ten children, four sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood and became heads of families. They are all living at this time, except three, one daughter and two sons. Louisa Beam, who married Alfred Mayberry, was the first to be called to the Great Beyond. After her death, the eldest son, John, passed away and he was followed by the youngest son, Amos, Jr. The living children are David, Henry, Mrs. Sarah Glancy, Mrs. Mary Scott, Mrs. Kate Buckingham, Mrs. Lydia Norman and Mrs. Rosa Bogart. There are, at the present time, forty-one grandchildren living and sixteen deceased, forty-four great-grandchildren living and two deceased.

On August 12, 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Amos Beam celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary and on this date they were given a pleasant and agreeable surprise by their children and grandchildren, all of whom came with baskets well filled for the event. Amos Beam was presented with a gold-headed walking cane and Mrs. Beam was presented with a fine dress pattern. Each was given a pair of fine gold spectacles. They were also the recipients of many other presents.

Amos Beam's mother, Rosa (Kerns) Beam, who was born in 1798, passed away in July, 1874. She and her husband had been devout members of the Lutheran church and later belonged to the United Brethren church. Three years before her death, Amos Beam had erected a splendid brick dwelling on his Union township farm, and here he lived until his death, January 29, 1900, when he was seventy-six years, seven months and two days old. His devoted wife passed away about three years later, April 10, 1903, at the age of seventy-nine years, eight months and seventeen days. They were both faithful and loyal members of the United Brethren church throughout their lives and especially after their arrival in Ohio. Late in life Amos Beam, who had inherited Democratic doctrines from his father, became an ardent Prohibitionist. He was a township trustee and also a school director, both of which offices came to him without solicitation. He was a class leader in his church and superintendent of the Sunday school. He was a public-spirited citizen and always one of the leaders in the community where he lived.

WILLIAM T. ETTER.

Agriculture has been the true source of man's dominion over earth ever since the primal existence of labor and has been the pivotal industry that has controlled for the most part all of the fields of action to which intelligence and energy have been devoted. Among the sturdy elements of Putnam county whose labors have profited alike themselves and the community in which they live, is William T. Etter, who is not only a farmer, but a tile manufacturer, and who has been honored by the people of Perry township by the election to the office of township trustee. In view of the consistent life lived by Mr. Etter, all of which has been passed within the borders of the state of Ohio, it is particularly fitting that the following short record of his career be incorporated in this volume.

William T. Etter was born on October 3, 1866, in Hancock county, Ohio. He is the son of George T. and Christina (Kohl) Etter, both of whom were natives of Germany, and who came to America at the age of eighteen and settled at Tiffin, Ohio, where they were married. Later they moved to Hancock county, Ohio, and settled near Arcadia, half way between Arcadia and Fostoria. Here George T. Etter farmed for a number of years, but later moved to North Baltimore, where he lived until his death in the fall of 1913, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife, who, before her mar-

riage, was Christina Kohl, died in 1895, at the age of sixty-four years. After her death, George T. Etter remarried and his widow still lives at North Baltimore, Ohio. George T. and Christina (Kohl) Etter had eleven children, seven of whom are now living, John, lives in Michigan; Mrs. Mary Baer, lives three miles from Angola, Indiana; William T., the subject of this sketch; George, Samuel and Charles, all of whom live at Dupont, Ohio, and Albert, who lives in Perry township.

William T. Etter was educated in the public schools of Ohio, and received a good common-school education. He was married on December 8, 1888, to Mary E. Dicus, who was born in Paulding county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Joshua and Sidney (Potter) Dicus. To this marriage nine children have been born, Carl, deceased; Coy, who is at home; Emma, who married James Foley, of Delphos, Ohio, and has two children, Opal and Howard; Anna, who married Arthur McCuen, of Critherville, Ohio, and has two children, Mary and Helen; Clayton, Clifford, Carney, Clarence and Mabel, all of whom are at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Etter moved to Putnam county, Ohio. During the first year, he lived on the D. J. Taylor farm in Monroe township and then lived one year across from the old home place. He then moved to the old homestead and, after being here for one year, moved to the Hickson farm, in Perry township, where he remained for two years. After this he moved to Dupont, Ohio, and went into the tile-manufacturing business with his father-in-law, Mr. Dicus. They conducted this enterprise together for about five years, when Mr. Dicus sold out to Mr. Etter's brother-in-law, Frank Walters. This arrangement continued for five years more. Subsequently, Mr. Etter purchased his brother-in-law's interest and conducted the business alone for five years. He then sold a one-third interest to two brothers, Charles and George, but is still actively identified with the business, though not active in the management. He devotes practically all of his time to farming one hundred and twenty-acres of the E. L. Marriott farm in Perry township. He has been farming this land for the past seven years. Mr. Etter owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Arkansas, which he leases.

William T. Etter is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 719, at Dupont, Ohio. He served on the local board of health for six years and also as a member of the Dupont school board for a number of years. He has been corporation treasurer for the past ten years and is still active in this capacity. For two years he was infirmity director of Putnam county, 1911 and 1912. At the present time he is trustee of

Perry township and is entering upon his second year. He has been treasurer of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows lodge for the past fifteen years. Mr. Etter is a staunch Democrat. He is not a member of any church, but was reared as an adherent of the Methodist faith. His wife is a member of the Methodist church at Dupont. William T. Etter is a man highly respected in Putnam county, where he is well known.

GILBERT McClish.

Gilbert McClish is one of the progressive and influential citizens of Putnam county, where, for more than half a century, he maintained his home, figuring as one of the builders of the community and is especially worthy of consideration in this work. He has, by his industry and sound judgment, not only improved a fine farm and won a fairly large competency for his old age, but he has materially assisted in promoting the general welfare of the community, and in many ways lending his valuable time and influence to the promulgation of various uplifting movements. Gilbert McClish is well known as one of the substantial farmers of Perry township, and has been honored by the citizens of this township by election to the important office of township trustee.

Gilbert McClish was born on November 28, 1857, in Perry township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Hannah (Jeffrey) McClish, the former of whom was born in January, 1829, in Perry township, and a son of Silas and Nancy McClish, early settlers in Putnam county. Silas McClish died on June 20, 1860, and his wife on February 21, 1855. Gilbert McClish still has the deed for two tracts of government land entered by Silas McClish, his grandfather. The original papers are dated May 10, 1854, and December 15, 1854.

John McClish was reared as a farmer, and died on the homestead in Perry township, May 8, 1879, at the age of fifty-two years. Originally, there were one hundred and sixty acres in the homestead farm, but John McClish had over two hundred acres at the time of his death. He was trustee of Perry township for several terms.

John McClish was married three times, the first time to Hannah Jeffrey, who was born on October 10, 1836, in Putnam county, and who died, May 8, 1859. Four children were born to this marriage, only one of whom, besides the subject, is now living. She is Mrs. Nancy Pitcher, of Perry township.

Winnie and George, the other children, are deceased. John McClish was married the second time on April 24, 1860, to Harriet Dash. She died on February 27, 1873. Four children were born to this marriage, only two of whom are living, Ambrose, of Lima, Ohio, and Mrs. Mary Griffith, of Missouri. Frank died on May 1, 1875, and Alice died on May 20, 1872. After the death of his second wife, Mr. McClish married Elizabeth Hitchcock, January 24, 1875. She died in Henry county, Ohio, in 1907. No children were born to this third marriage.

Gilbert McClish grew up on the farm in Perry township, and was educated in the schools of this township. He remained with his father until his death and then assisted his step-mother, and later, he was married. He then purchased his present farm of eighty acres, which was partly cleared. He moved upon this land and since has, for the most part, placed it under cultivation. It is now a splendid farm, upon which he has recently erected a new barn, of the latest type.

Mr. McClish was married on November 29, 1882, to Flora Miller, who was born on August 13, 1863, in Marion county, Ohio. She is the daughter of Adolphus and Mary (Curren) Miller, both of whom were natives of Marion county, Ohio. To this union have been born six children, Grace and Zoe died of typhoid fever, the former on August 12, 1899, and the latter on November 17, 1889; Ralph, Edward, Guy and Helen, the four surviving children, live at home.

Adolphus Miller, the father of Mrs. McClish, was born in 1827, and died, December 27, 1899, at the age of seventy-one years and six months. His wife, who was Mary Curren before her marriage, was born in 1834, and died, August 15, 1899, at the age of sixty-five years and six months. Adolphus Miller came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1881, and settled in Perry township on a farm. He farmed here until his death. He was not a member of any lodge. He was school director in Marion county, Ohio, some years, was a Republican and a member of the Baptist church. He was a strict church member and a regular attendant. His wife was a member of the United Brethren church at New Bethany, Perry township.

Gilbert McClish is now the trustee of Perry township, and is entering upon his second year at the present time. He is an active Republican, and prominent locally in the councils of his party. Mr. McClish is not a member of any church, but reared as an adherent of the Methodist church. His father was a stanch Methodist, and helped to erect the church at New Bethany, for a long time known as the McClish church, since John McClish gave the ground upon which this church was erected.

Gilbert McClish is a congenial, pleasant man, and makes acquaintances readily. He is widely known in this section of Putnam county, and is well liked for his frankness, sincerity and honesty. He is a good farmer, a good provider, and a lover of his home, wife and family.

THEODORE HORSTMAN.

Any person who will investigate the facts, will be surprised to learn of the great number of people of Germanic nativity and descent now living in the United States. Unquestionably the greatest number of immigrants reaching the shores of the new world come from that nation, and statistics show that there is more Germanic blood in the United States than any other. This being the fact, it is easy to account for the prosperity and morality in this country. Not only that, but it will afford an explanation for the love of learning shown by the people of this vast nation. Germany is famous the world over for its remarkable universities, for its educated men, for its poets, philosophers and for the industry, patience, intelligence, morality and sturdiness of its citizens. These qualities have been brought to this country by the immigrants and now are a part of our wonderful nation, its progress in domestic economy, its advancement in every branch of material development, its love of country and home. The subject of this sketch, Theodore Horstman, is a native of Germany.

Theodore Horstman was born on January 6, 1869, in Westphalia, Germany. He is the son of Herman and Mary (Bruland) Horstman, the former of whom was a native of Westphalia, Germany, and died in 1890, at the age of seventy-one years. He was born in 1819, and never came to America. He was a farmer in Germany and at one time operated a stone quarry there, but was retired several years before his death. His wife was also a native of Westphalia, Germany, born in 1824, and died in 1885, at the age of sixty-one years. They had nine children, of whom five lived to maturity, Joseph, lives in Montana; Mrs. Christina Pott, deceased; Mrs. Anna Pott, of Perry township; Theodore, the subject of this sketch, and Herman, who lives in Jackson township, Putnam county.

Theodore Horstman came to America in 1893 and settled first in Jackson township on a farm. He purchased sixty acres of land and added to it until he now has one hundred acres in Jackson township. He farmed there about fourteen years and then moved to Cloverdale, Ohio, where he now

lives. He has something more than twenty-four acres in his home place, adjoining the town of Cloverdale, in Perry township, besides his Jackson township farm. When Mr. Horstman came to this country, the land which he bought was a wilderness and swamp. Since that time, however, by his untiring efforts he has greatly improved this land. He came to Jackson township when it was only partially settled, and has seen the vast improvements made in the farm property of this township. Mr. Horstman started in the stock business thirteen years ago and is still actively engaged in buying and selling all kinds of live stock, especially hogs, cattle and sheep.

Theodore Horstman was married in Germany, in 1890, on February 6, to Elizabeth Roieng, a native of Germany and the daughter of Joseph and Catherine Roieng, natives of Germany, who never came to America. To this happy union, four children have been born, Katherine, Amelia, Joseph and Margaret. All of these children are living at home.

Mr. Horstman is not a member of any lodge. At present he is one of the councilman of Cloverdale and was formerly a supervisor. He is a Democrat, is a member of St. Barbara's Catholic church at Cloverdale, as is also his family.

Theodore Horstman is a progressive farmer and takes a keen interest in civic affairs. He has a neat, well-kept home and is a jovial citizen of the community, a man widely known, frugal in his habits and honest in his business dealings. He has accumulated a snug fortune and is proud of the country of his adoption. He is a man of sincere purpose and his word is gilt-edged.

ISAAC NELSON YOUNG.

Those of the readers of this historical work, who live in and about Sugar Creek township, need no introduction to the gentleman whose name is noted above, but in order that the list of progressive, successful and representative citizens of Putnam county, presented in this volume, may not be broken, the biographer takes pleasure in here presenting a brief sketch of Mr. Young's career as being a matter of interesting information to those in remoter sections of the county who may not have the pleasure of his acquaintance, as well as a bit of valuable data to the future historian of Putnam county, who may have occasion to refer to these pages as an index and reflector of the present time.

Isaac Nelson Young was born in Delaware county, Ohio, close to the

town of Sunbury, on July 9, 1857, the son of Oliver and Caroline (Hiatt) Young, the former of whom was a native of the same county and state. Oliver Young was born in March, 1825, the son of Linderman Young, a native of New Hampshire, whose parents moved to New York during his early childhood and who, later, at the time he was about twelve years of age, moved to Ohio, locating in Delaware county, and, in 1862, went to Paulding county, where he remained till his death. For some time after his marriage, Oliver Young remained in Delaware county and was engaged in farming, a vocation to which he had been trained from boyhood, and it was in that county that Isaac Nelson Young was born. Later, the family moved to Paulding county, Ohio, where Oliver Young bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres at the point of the Auglaize river, where he lived the rest of his life, dying in the year 1882, at the great age of ninety-two years. Before moving to Paulding county, in the year 1862, Oliver Young had been quite successful in a number of real estate deals in Delaware county, and had bought and sold a number of farms there. He was a lifelong farmer and also gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock, horses and cattle in particular, and was a large feeder of Durham cattle. He was a good judge of live stock and was an extensive exhibitor at county fairs at a time when these expositions of the resources of the counties of Ohio were just coming in vogue, being a winner of many blue ribbons in such exhibits. Oliver Young was a very plain, slow-spoken man, whose judgments were regarded as excellent among his neighbors, and he wielded a large influence in the community in which he quickly became so decisive a factor. He was a member of the United Brethren church at Oakwood, in Paulding county, a staunch Republican and an active participant in all the good works of the community, both he and his good wife being held in the highest regard throughout that whole section in which their influence was so manifest, and to the best interests of which they were so devoted.

To Oliver and Caroline (Hiatt) Young were born ten children: Elizabeth, Amia, Isaac Nelson, Jacob, Eli and Evi (twins), Elias, Harrison, Daley and Nathan. Of these Elizabeth, Amia, Evi, Harrison and Daley are deceased. Jacob lives in Missouri; Eli is still a resident of Delaware county, Ohio; Elias resides in Paulding county, Ohio, and Nathan lives in Missouri.

Isaac Nelson Young was united in marriage on February 12, 1885, to Miss Mary Jane Anderson, who was born in Sugar Creek township, this county, on October 15, 1852, the daughter of Henry and Ann (Thomas) Anderson, the former of whom was a native of New York state and the latter of whom was born in South Wales.

Henry Anderson, who, in his day, was one of the most prominent and influential residents of Sugar Creek township, was born in the year 1818, and at the age of seven came with his parents from New York state to the state of Ohio, settling first in Marion county, close to the Sandusky river. Later, the Andersons moved to Putnam county, settling in Sugar Creek township, Henry at that time being about nineteen years of age. Some years later, they moved to the present Anderson farm in Sugar Creek township, which Henry and his father together purchased and which they cleared, and on which they spent the remainder of their lives, Henry Anderson dying in 1899, at the age of eighty-one.

On August 30, 1846, Henry Anderson was united in marriage to Ann Thomas, the daughter of Evan and Rachael (Thomas) Thomas, who was born in South Wales in May, 1818, and who came to America with her parents when she was thirteen years of age. Upon their arrival in this country, the Thomases, for a time, lived in Guernsey county, Ohio, later going to Allen county, locating at a point which is now the town of Gomar and after a some time residence there came to Putnam county, locating in Sugar Creek township, where they bought a farm near Vaughnsville, on which Mr. Thomas built a blacksmith shop and followed his trade of blacksmith till a short time before his death, which occurred on August 18, 1899, his wife's death occurring June on 30, 1887, at the age of sixty-nine years.

Henry and Ann (Thomas) Anderson were the parents of seven children, of whom William Henry and Mrs. Young are the only survivors, the deceased members of the family being Evan Thomas, Leonard, Mary, Jane, Sarah Ann, Charles Godfrey and George Washington.

Isaac Nelson Young grew up in Paulding county, he having been but seven years of age when his parents moved to that county from Delaware county. He received a good schooling in the township schools and learned the carpenter trade, at which he worked for several years after attaining his growth. He then went to northern Michigan, where, for two years, he worked as a cook in a lumber camp, at the end of which time he returned to Paulding county and worked on the farm for his grandfather for about three years. He then married and moved to Putnam county, buying a farm of forty acres in Sugar Creek township, on which he has since made his home. This property not being as much land as he could properly care for, he rented an additional forty acres adjoining and has been quite successful. He has a well-kept and well-stocked farm, everything on which is up to modern standards. Mr. Young also has a feed and chop grinder, run by gasoline engine of six-horse power. This grinder has been a source of great help and has been in use for ten years.

To Isaac Nelson and Mary Jane (Anderson) Young four children have been born; Anna, who married Henry H. Wilkins, of Columbus Grove, this county; Oliver W., who was graduated from Ada College with the degree of electrical engineer and is now holding that position at the great Mississippi river power-house dam at Keokuk, Iowa, having overseen the installing of the machinery there; Mary, who married William W. Hartoon, and who is residing on the home farm; and Laura, who also is at home.

Mr. Young is a good farmer and essentially a home man, taking great pleasure in his well-kept home and is devoted to his family. Like his father, he is a slow-spoken man, but excellent in judgment, of keen intellect and very companionable. Isaac Nelson Young, his wife and their children are very popular in the social circle in which they move, and are accounted as among the leading residents of that section of the county. Mr. Young is a Republican and takes a proper interest in politics, but is more or less independent in voting. He has served his township as assessor and is one of the active promoters of the best interests of his neighborhood.

DAVID S. REYNOLDS.

The biographies of the representative men of a county bring to light many hidden treasures of mind, character and courage, well calculated to arouse the pride of their family and of the community. And it is a source of regret that the people are not more familiar with the personal history of such men, in the ranks of whom may be found tillers of the soil, mechanics and teachers, as well as lawyers, physicians, bankers and members of other vocations and professions. David S. Reynolds is one of the leading citizens of the township in which he lives, and as such has made his influence felt among his fellowmen, and earned a name for enterprise, integrity and honor that entitles him to worthy notice in a work of the nature of this volume.

David S. Reynolds is a native son of the old Buckeye state, having been born in Franklin county, on March 17, 1866. His parents were Roger and Elizabeth (Bowen) Reynolds. Roger Reynolds was born on January 14, 1801, in North Wales, and reared as a farmer, being employed as such by members of the nobility. He became known as an efficient and reliable farm superintendent, his duties being to oversee and direct the laborers on the estate where he was employed. He received his early education in the village parish and could speak Welsh fluently and English to a limited degree,

though able to understand the latter language thoroughly. He was one of a large family of children, and remained at home in his native country until about forty years of age. Prior to this time his father had died. His mother continued to reside on the little farm with her children. In 1841, Roger Reynolds embarked on a sailing vessel for America, the voyage requiring six weeks, and the emigrants landed at New York city, from which port he came directly to Franklin county, Ohio, locating at Columbus, where Mr. Reynolds at once sought employment. Among the emigrants who accompanied Mr. Reynolds to this country, was a young English girl by the name of Elizabeth Bowen. She had been reared in the Reformed church of England. Shortly after their arrival in Columbus, Roger Reynolds became engaged to her and eventually they were married. After this interesting event, they remained in Columbus for several years, during which time Mr. Reynolds was employed as a mason. But through the carelessness of his employer, who died, and who had never kept any books, after the settlement of the estate, Mr. Reynolds was compelled to present his private account as the only record of the time he worked with his employer. Since this man left no money, but had considerable real estate, Mr. Reynolds was compelled to take land in exchange for the money owing him as wages, which, this time, had increased until he received ninety acres of land, located in Franklin county, in exchange for it, and which, eventually, formed the basis of his homestead farm. This land, located three miles southwest of Hilliard, was heavily timbered and in its primeval condition, but undaunted by these conditions, Mr. Reynolds entered upon the task of clearing and improving it. He built a log cabin and a large barn, and eventually, by a persistent and untiring effort, succeeded in getting the land all cleared. He sold this land in 1867, and moved to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where he bought four hundred and fourteen acres of Jacob Gander, the land being located in the northwestern part of the township, and on the west bank of Hog creek. This land was also practically undeveloped, only a few acres being cleared, but it had on it a pretentious brick house of eight rooms and a double log barn, and a small frame barn, as well as a one-room log house. When Mr. Reynolds bought this farm, he lacked three thousand dollars of having enough to pay for it, and as he was well along in years and had a family of thirteen children to provide for, the outlook promised to be one of unceasing toil and perseverance if he was to succeed in securing a clear title to all the land. By dint of persistent energy, he succeeded in getting about two hundred acres cleared, or nearly half of the children were taken down with typhoid fever, which entailed an enormous expense for

doctors' services and extra help on the farm. The conditions prevented Mr. Reynolds from realizing his life's ambition of having his farm and home clear of debt, and in the midst of these struggles he died in June, 1881, at the ripe old age of eighty years.

Rogers Reynolds was a man of strong character and sturdy physique, else he would not have been able to carry on the enterprise to which he had applied himself. A great reader and close student and keen observer of events, he was well informed and was a most interesting conversationalist. He possessed strong convictions on moral and ethical questions, and was a faithful and consistent Christian in character. He was a staunch Republican, and a strong supporter of the Calvin Methodist church. His wife, Elizabeth, was also a member of this church, and survived her husband several years, dying in September, 1900. She was born near Manchester, England, on June 22, 1826, and at the time of her death was seventy-four years of age.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Elizabeth Reynolds sold the chattels on the farm and applied it to reduce the indebtedness. Then seven of the children bought out the interest of the remaining heirs, and each assumed one-seventh of the remaining debt. Each one also agreed to pay their mother a stated amount each year, and for this consideration each received from his mother a quit-claim deed to his share of the property. All this was done without one cent being expended for legal fees and was a splendid testimonial to the regard each had for the other's rights in the matter, and for their desire to live peacefully and in harmony. The thirteen children in this family were: Roger, Richard, Evan, Elizabeth, George, David, Thomas, Charles M., Benjamin F., Emma, Margaret, Mary and James F. The last named died at the age of three years. All the others grew to maturity, and all are living with the exception of Charles, who met his death as the result of an accident in September, 1910.

David S. Reynolds was eleven years of age when, on April 10, 1867, he came to Putnam county, and here he spent the years of his youth, receiving his education in the old McLain district school. Until twenty-two years of age, he remained under the homestead roof, and then, after his marriage, he started to farm for himself on the old home place, renting twelve acres the first year. After that he leased as much land as he could clear up, getting the crop for eight years in payment for his labors on that account. He continued to reside on part of the old home place until he bought twenty acres adjoining, to which he moved in about 1895. In the settlement of the paternal estate, he received and purchased from the heirs sixty-nine

acres, which, in addition to the land he had already purchased, made a total of ninety-six acres. He also rented twenty acres, and is thus operating one hundred and sixteen acres of land. He has carried forward his work in an intelligent and progressive manner, raising all the crops common to this section of the country, and has become very successful.

On March 7, 1878, David S. Reynolds was married to Lucetta Hoffer, a native of Jennings township, Putnam county, where she was born on April 10, 1856, the daughter of John and Lydia (Meyers) Hoffer. John Hoffer was a native of Switzerland, born in 1807, and in his youth came to America, locating at once in Fairfield county, Ohio, where he followed his trade, that of tailor. In that county he was married to Lydia Meyers, a daughter of Jacob and Annie Meyers, and remained there for several years after their marriage. He then moved to Allen county, where they remained until several years later, the family locating in Jennings township, Putnam county, where they spent the remainder of their days, the father dying in November, 1868, and the mother in October, 1891. John and Lydia Hoffer were the parents of eleven children, two of whom died in infancy; Isaac; Jacob; Andrew, deceased; Samuel, deceased; John; Jonas; Ann Elizabeth, who died at the age of one and one-half years; Sarah; Lucetta; Joseph and Lydia, the two last named dying in infancy. Four of the sons named above, Isaac, Jacob, Andrew and Jonas enlisted for service in the Civil War, and fought faithfully for their country, all surviving, except Andrew, who was brought home sick, dying shortly afterward. Mrs. Reynolds spent her girlhood in the old home place, receiving her education in the common schools, and was married at the age of twenty-two years.

To David S. and Lucetta (Meyers) Reynolds have been born the following children: Cora, on November 24, 1878, became the wife of John Krouse, and to them were born six children, Carlyle, Arnold, Alice, John M., Zella and Estella, the two latter being twins; Evans, January 26, 1881, married Maud Clevenger; Oral B., November 25, 1885, became the wife of Enoch Barnes, and the mother of two children, Kenneth and Reed; Sarah B., November 23, 1887, is the widow of William Musser; Francis, February 26, 1889, became the wife of Benjamin Evans, and they have one child, Willard; D. Raymond, February 21, 1892; Benjamin B., December 25, 1895; Ester, March 3, 1898; and one child which died in infancy.

David Reynolds is a staunch Republican, and has served his township as trustee for six years, and also several years as a member of the school board. He is a member of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a steward and class leader. He is one of the most sub-

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stantial and influential citizens of Sugar Creek township, and is widely and favorably known throughout his section of the county, being eminently deserving of special mention in a work of this character.

AARON HUYSMAN.

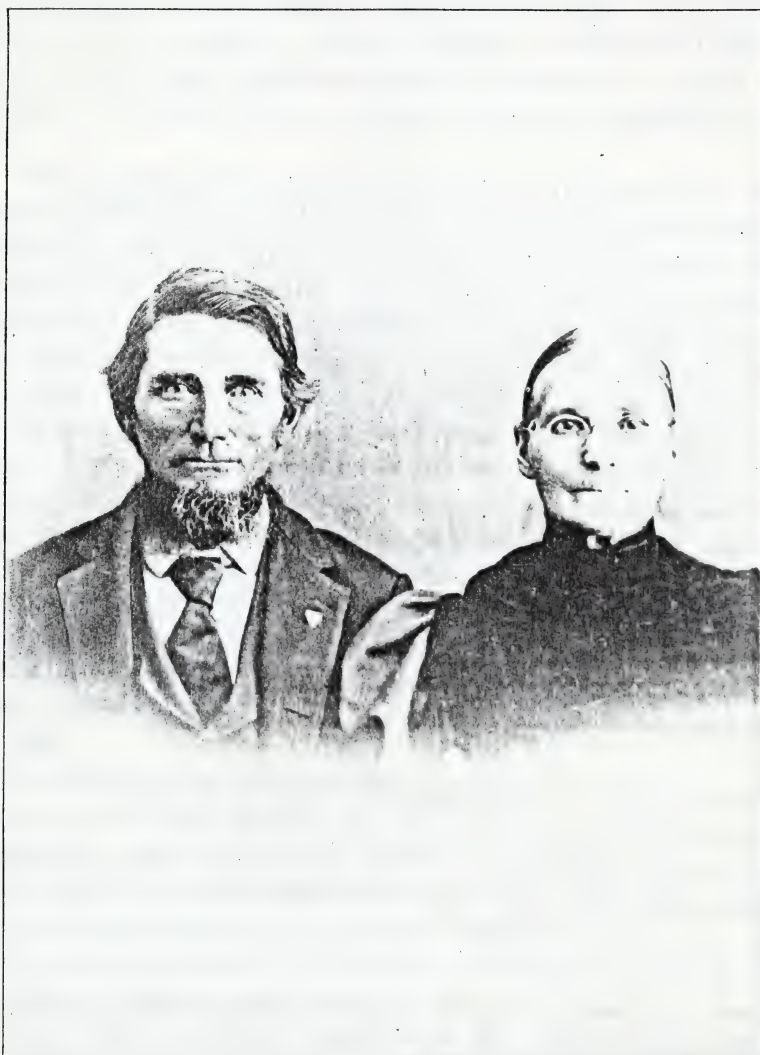
The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of those men who have succeeded in their special vocations in Putnam county, Ohio, and who at the same time are impressing their personalities upon the community, men who are conferring honor upon the locality in which they reside, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of Aaron Huysman, since he is an important factor in the agricultural life of Monterey township. The splendid success which has come to him has been the result of prodigious industry. He is possessed of a mind capable of laying judicious plans and a will strong enough to carry them into execution. His energy, foresight and perseverance have carried him forward to a position where he now occupies a foremost rank among the successful men of his community. He has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. His business methods have been in strict conformity with the standard ethics of commercial life and he has taken an intelligent interest in the civic life of the community where he lives.

Aaron Huysman was born on December 15, 1838, in Holland, the son of Henry and Petronella Huysman. The family came to the United States in 1848 and settled in Monterey township, where Mr. and Mrs. Huysman lived until their deaths. The country was a wilderness in those days and they found it necessary to endure the ordinary privations of frontier life. The father died on April 17, 1893, and the mother on April 11, 1892. Both were members of the German Reformed church at Delphos.

Mr. and Mrs. Huysman were the parents of nine children: Wilhelmina, deceased; Mary, deceased; Aaron, the subject of this sketch; Walter, deceased; Henry died on board ship; Nellie; Henreche, deceased; Cornelius and Henry.

Aaron Huysman purchased eighty acres of land in 1860 from his father and continued to farm this land until the breaking out of the Civil War.

In July, 1862, Mr. Huysman enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served nearly three



MR. AND MRS. AARON HUYSMAN.

years, or until the close of the war. He returned to Putnam county after the war and began work on his farm.

Mr. Huysman was married to Gretchen Osenga on October 31, 1867. To this happy but brief union two children were born, one of whom is living, Nellie, born on December 1, 1868. William, the other child, died in infancy. Nellie married Jacob Schramm, who died September 22, 1908. Mrs. Jacob Schramm and family live on a farm in Monterey township, north of Ottoville.

Mrs. Gretchen Huysman died on April 7, 1872, and Mr. Huysman was married, a second time, on December 8, 1872, to Mrs. Mary Miller, who was born on January 14, 1839, in Switzerland. She is the daughter of Jacob and Margaret Vogt. Her mother died in Switzerland in 1843 and her father came to the United States and settled in Sandusky county, Ohio, living there for a time, later moving to Van Wert county in 1855. Here he rented a farm for a time and later purchased a tract of land, where he died about 1905. To this second union of subject five children were born, four of whom are living: Margaret, born on October 10, 1874, died at the age of nine years; Aaron, Mary, Rickie and Bertha. Aaron, who was born on December 26, 1875, married Katie Baugh and has five children: Verna, born on November 13, 1901; Mabel, September 7, 1906; Elmer, January 30, 1909; Herbert, May 2, 1911, and Arthur, September 5, 1914; Mary, May 26, 1878, is at home; Rickie, September 20, 1880, married Alois Wurstner and lives near Dayton, Ohio. They have two children: Helen, born on April 9, 1903, and Byron, January 2, 1906, and Bertha married Joseph Remke and lives in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Huysman has added to his original farm of eighty acres until for a time he owned three hundred and five acres of well improved land. Mr. Huysman has given to all of his children considerable tracts of land and still owns a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He first settled on it in a log cabin, when it was heavily timbered, but the timber has been cleared away and his farm is well tiled. In fact, Mr. Huysman was one of the first men in Monterey township to tile his land. He was laughed at by the other farmers, who, a few years later, began to see the value of tiling and who began to do it themselves. Mr. Huysman has modern buildings on his farm. He is located south and west of Ottoville, about two and one-half miles.

Aaron Huysman and family are members of the Presbyterian church at Delphos, is a Republican and throughout his life has been more or less active in the councils of the Republican party and influential to a considerable ex-

gree. For many years he has served his community as supervisor and in this office has behind him an excellent record. Few men are better known in Monterey township than Aaron Huysman and no man is more deserving of the respect and confidence in which he is held than the subject of this sketch.

JOHN F. MILLER:

Improvement and progress may well be said to form the keynote of the character of John F. Miller, a well-known and influential farmer of Sugar Creek township, and he has not only been interested in the work of advancing his individual affairs, but his influence is felt in upbuilding the community. He has been an industrious man all his life, trying to keep abreast of the times in every respect, and as a result, every mile-post of the years he has passed has found him further advanced, more prosperous, and with an increased number of friends.

John F. Miller was born on April 14, 1866, in Monroe township, Allen county, Ohio, the son of Henry and Mary (Sauer) Miller. Henry Miller was a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, born on April 29, 1841. His parents, Michael and Ann (Kunkleman) Miller, were farmer folks in their native country, and came to America in 1849, settling at McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Here Michael Miller remained for three years, when, after losing a son by an accident in the coal mines, he moved, in 1852, to Monroe township, Allen county, where he bought eighty acres of land, located about four miles southwest of Columbus Grove. There he remained during the rest of his life, his death occurring in October, 1879, at the age of seventy-three years, nine months and twenty days. To him and his wife were born six sons, one of whom died in infancy in Germany, the others being John, Leonard, Christopher, Henry and Adam. Michael Miller's wife, Annie, died in August, 1886, at the age of eighty years, her death occurring at the home of her son, Henry.

Henry Miller, the subject's father, was nine years of age when brought to America, and spent his youth in Allen county, where he received his education in the common schools. He remained with his parents until the time of his marriage to Mary Sauer, who was the daughter of Frank and Catherine (Harmon) Sauer. She was born in Prussia, Germany, and came to America with her parents at the age of nine years, her birth having occurred

on January 20, 1846, at which time the family came direct to Pickaway county, Ohio, where they lived a few years, and then located in Monroe township, Allen county, on a farm two and one-half miles south of Columbus Grove. After Henry Miller's marriage, he rented a farm in Monroe township, three and one-half miles southwest of Columbus Grove, where he remained for about six years. He then bought eighty acres of land, four and one-half miles southwest of Columbus Grove, to which he later added, by purchase, one hundred acres, and which is his present home farm. He has been a very successful farmer, and stands high in the community. To him and his wife were born fourteen children, Margaret, John F., Emma, Anna, Alice, Sarah, Caroline, Bertha, William, Harmon, Louis, Clara, Grace and Arthur. All are living and all are married, except Bertha, Grace and Arthur.

John F. Miller spent his early years under the parental roof, attending the district schools. He assisted his father on the home farm until his marriage, at the age of twenty-four years, following which, for two years, he operated his father's farm. He then bought fifty acres of land in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, southeast of Vaughnsville, where he lived for twelve years, at the end of which time he sold out, and, on March 9, 1905, bought sixty-six acres of land located one mile northeast of Vaughnsville. To this tract he has added forty acres, thus making his present holdings one hundred and six acres. This farm is splendidly improved in every respect, including a substantial seven-room residence, a large barn, and other necessary farm buildings, and in every respect he maintained the place according to up-to-date ideas, employing the best of machinery and improvements, and following advanced methods of agriculture.

On January 29, 1891, Mr. Miller was married to Lydia Jane Miller, who was born on March 25, 1868, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, and a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Best) Miller. Both of these parents are natives of eastern Ohio, the former born in Pickaway county and the latter in Clark county. To John F. and Lydia Jane (Miller) Miller have been born two children, Alta, on August 17, 1897, and Lloyd, February 25, 1900.

Mr. Miller is a Democrat, and is rendering efficient service as trustee of Sugar Creek township. It is noteworthy that Mr. Miller received within three votes of the highest vote ever polled by any Republican in Sugar Creek township. He is in sympathy with, and an attendant of, the Christian church, of which Mrs. Miller is an active member. As a citizen, Mr. Miller's character is above reproach, and he enjoys to a marked degree the esteem and confidence of those who know him.

WILLIAM SAKEMILLER.

It is by no means an easy task to describe within the limits of this review a man who has lived an active and eminently useful life and, by his own exertion, reached a position of honor and trust in a line of industry with which his interests are allied. But biography finds justification, nevertheless, in the tracing and recording of such a life history, as the public claims a certain property interest in the career of every individual and the time invariably arrives when it becomes advisable to give the right publicity. It is then with a certain degree of satisfaction that the chronicler essays the task of touching upon such a record as has been that of William Sakemiller, a man who has been a successful farmer and honest citizen of Sugar Creek township.

William Sakemiller was born on April 14, 1868, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, and is the son of Benjamin and Mary (Sherrick) Sakemiller. Benjamin Sakemiller is a native of the old Keystone state, born on March 4, 1825, and came to Allen county, Ohio, in 1838, at the age of thirteen years, with his parents, who settled about two miles north of Elida. Here Benjamin Sakemiller spent the remainder of his youth, on the farm which his parents had bought, and where they spent the remainder of their lives. Benjamin Sakemiller was married, in 1849, to Mary Sherrick, and some time afterward he moved to Jennings township, Putnam county, about three-quarters of a mile southeast of Rushmore, where he bought a farm and where he lived until 1866. Then, selling that place, he bought one hundred and ten acres, one mile north of Rimer, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, to which, a few years later, he added forty acres, thus giving him a total acreage of one hundred and sixty acres. He was a hard-working farmer and, by persistent effort and good management, attained a definite success in his vocation. He was a Democrat in his political views and was a member of the Christian church. His death occurred, February 20, 1888. His wife, Mary Sherrick, was born on September 30, 1830, in Fairfield county, Ohio, the daughter of Christian and Anna (Myers) Sherrick. She came to Allen county, Ohio, with her parents, when she was a child and lived on the home farm, which adjoins that of William Sakemiller's grandfather. She was also a member of the Christian church and was a devoted wife and loving mother, and enjoyed the love and respect of all who knew her. She died on December 15, 1892, having survived her husband several years. To this worthy couple were born eleven children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follow: Rachel, the wife of J. H. Deffen-

baugh; Christian, who married Alice Guffy; Jane, the deceased wife of William Blakely; Sampson, who married Frances Benson; Charles, who died unmarried, at the age of forty-one years; Rebecca, the wife of George Glendenning; William, the subject of this sketch; Benjamin G., who is unmarried; and James W., who married Cora Thomas.

William Sakemiller, the immediate subject of this review, spent his childhood and youth under the parental roof, assisting, when old enough, in the cultivation of the home farm. He received his elementary education in the old Rimer district schools, but his education has been supplemented during subsequent years by much reading and close observation, so that today he is considered a well-informed man on general topics. He remained with his father until twenty-one years of age, when he assumed the management of the home place, continuing to operate the same for thirteen years. Mr. Sakemiller moved to the John G. Evans farm in 1903, where he lived for two years and, in 1905, bought the George Gander farm, which has been his home ever since. The place is beautifully situated on the west bank of the Ottawa river (Hog creek) and is well improved, containing a large brick residence, well arranged and comfortably furnished and surrounded with a splendid grove of evergreens, with numerous other outbuildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Sakemiller has always carried on general farming operations, giving proper attention to rotation of crops and other up-to-date methods of successful agriculture and is one of the most successful and progressive farmers of his locality.

On February 23, 1892, Mr. Sakemiller was married to Maggie E. Funk, who was born in Nemaha county, Kansas, on December 30, 1870, the daughter of Samuel and Anna (Evans) Funk, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania, coming to Ohio with his parents in his youth and settling on Hog creek in the northwestern part of Sugar Creek township. Anna Evans was a native of Wales, coming to America with her parents when a child. After their marriage, Samuel and Anna Funk moved to Kansas, where they remained for a few years, but eventually returned to Putnam county, where they have resided since. Mrs. Funk died in the spring of 1877 and Mr. Funk is still living and resides at Sioux City, Iowa. Several years after the death of his first wife, he married Martha Dicus, of Putnam county, and to this union two children have been born, James and Zoe. To his first marriage, eight children were born, two of whom died in infancy, the others being John, who died in early childhood; Elizabeth, the wife of William Pfister; Maggie, the wife of Mr. Sakemiller; May, who died in 1902, at the age of twenty-eight years; Nora, the wife of William Jinks; and Frank, who died in 1912, at the age of thirty years.

To William and Maggie E. (Funk) Sakemiller have been born three children, John G., Breata L. and Norah Marie, all of whom live at home.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Sakemiller is allied with the Democratic party and, in the fall of 1913, was elected trustee of Sugar Creek township by a majority of seventy votes, in a strong Republican township. He is discharging the duties of this office to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens. Mr. Sakemiller is a member of the Ottawa River Christian church and takes a deep interest in the various lines of activity in this society. Mrs. Sakemiller is also a member of the same church. Mr. Sakemiller has, for many years, occupied a prominent place in his locality and has exerted a beneficial influence in the community. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and everyday common sense, which have enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community.

CHRISTIAN SAKEMILLER.

Specific mention is made of many of the worthy citizens of Putnam county within the pages of this work, citizens who have figured in the growth and development of this favored locality and whose interests have been identified with its every phase of progress, each contributing in his sphere of activity to the well-being of the community in which he resides and to the advancement of its normal and legitimate growth. Among this number is he whose name appears above, peculiar interest attaching to his career from the fact that practically his whole life has been spent in this section of the state.

Christian Sakemiller was born near Lima, Ohio, on January 14, 1852, the son of Benjamin and Mary (Sherrick) Sakemiller. Benjamin Sakemiller was a native of the old Keystone state, having come with his parents in boyhood, to Allen county, Ohio, settling near Elida. Here he remained until his marriage, when he located three miles northwest of Lima. He located just south of Rushmore, Jennings township, Putnam county in 1854, where they remained until 1865, when they located one mile north of Rimer, where they spent the remainder of their years. Mary Sherrick moved with her parents from Fairfield to Allen county, Ohio, in girlhood, and was there married.

Christian Sakemiller spent his early childhood in Jennings township and his later youth in Sugar Creek township, receiving his education in the old

Rimer district school. He continued to help his father in the operation of the home farm until the fall of 1874, when he engaged in agricultural operations on his own account. He is now the owner of one hundred and eighty acres of splendid land, which is improved in every respect, the improvements comprising a comfortable and well-arranged home and large and commodious barns and other necessary farm buildings. He has followed general farming and has given proper attention to rotation of crops and the fertilization of the soil, so that today he possesses one of the most fertile and productive farms in this locality.

On September 3, 1874, Mr. Sakemiller was married to Alice Guffey, who was born in Sugar Creek township, on November 30, 1853, the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Jacobs) Guffey. William Guffey was born in Franklin county, Ohio, on November 22, 1806, one of twins, the first-born children of John and Nancy (Pendleton) Guffey, natives of Kentucky. William Guffey was reared to the hardships of pioneer life and eventually settled down to farming, in which he was successful. He married Mary Ann Jacobs in 1834 and to this union were born ten children, of whom two died in infancy, those who grew to maturity being Samuel, of Kansas; Elizabeth, the wife of James Rhodes; Alexander, who died a prisoner of war; Annetta, who became the wife of Noah Myers; George and James, farmers; Sarah, who married John Cratty, and Alice, the wife of Mr. Sakemiller. To Christian and Alice (Guffey) Sakemiller have been born the following children: Elnora, on April 17, 1876, died at the age of nine months; William D., May 18, 1879, married Clara McBride and has two children, Roy and Lenor; Elsie M., November 26, 1882, is the wife of Grant O. Ashton, and has had two children, Nellie, who died at the age of two years, and Juanita Alice; Mary A., May 11, 1884, married John L. Thomas, and has five children, Blanche, Ruth, Ivan, Flossie and Marguerite; and Ray, September 4, 1890, who married Sarah Norman and lives at home.

Mr. Sakemiller is an earnest Democrat and takes an intelligent interest in the public affairs of his community. He is a member of the Ottawa River Christian church, of which he is a trustee and to which his wife also belongs. He is prominent in the affairs of the Kalida (Ohio) Mutual Life Stock Association, being a member of the board of directors and also holding the official position of treasurer. Strong and forceful in his relations with his fellow men, he has not only made his presence felt, but has also gained the good will and commendation of all who know him, ever retaining his reputation among them for integrity and high character.

JOHN JACOB BRANT.

Upon the roll of representative citizens and prominent and influential pioneers of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, should be found the name of John Jacob Brant, who has lived in this county since his youth and who has worked his own way to a position of prominence in the business and agricultural life of that township. Mr. Brant is a man who enjoys the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and is honored and respected for his industry, his genial manners, his well-rounded and wholesome spirit of optimism in all things, private and public.

John Jacob Brant was born on February 2, 1859, in Franklin county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Stauffer) Brant. John Brant was born in 1825, in Maryland, and died in 1897, at Kalida, Putnam county, Ohio. John Brant's mother died when he was but one and one-half years of age and his father died a year later. He was placed in a convent, where he remained for several years. Subsequently, he learned the blacksmith trade and when a young man went to Pennsylvania, settling in Lancaster county, where he met Elizabeth Stauffer. After their marriage, they remained in Pennsylvania for about nine years and it was here that three of their ten children were born. After this, John Brant moved to Franklin county, Ohio, where he worked at various occupations, raising truck, principally, for the Columbus market. At this time the foundation for the present state capitol of Ohio was being laid.

When John Jacob Brant was six years old his parents moved to Putnam county, coming overland in a covered wagon. They settled, in the fall of 1866, in the northwestern part of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on the old John Clevenger farm. About a year later, they moved to the Jacob Gander farm and here they remained for five years. They lived for two years near Columbus Grove, on the John Bogart farm and then moved back to the Clevenger farm for two years. John Brant then purchased a home at Kalida, where he lived for five years. This was his final residence, with the exception of about a year spent in Paulding county. He spent practically the remaining nine years of his life in Kalida and died there in April, 1897. He was a powerfully built man physically and was always a hard worker. During his life, he cleared about two hundred acres of land in Putnam county. He was a lifelong Democrat in politics and a member, for many years, of the Ottawa River Christian church. Later he became a member of the Methodist church at Kalida.

Elizabeth Stauffer, the mother of John Jacob Brant, was born on April 13, 1835, in Pennsylvania. She spent her girlhood days in Lancaster county, where she was born. In fact, she remained there until her marriage. Eleven children were born to John and Elizabeth (Stauffer) Brant, Elizabeth, who died in infancy; Maria; Catherine; Fiana; Samuel H.; George W., deceased; John J., the subject of this sketch; Abraham L.; Margaret C., deceased; Alice Elizabeth and Charles E. Mrs. Elizabeth Brant is still living at Continental, Putnam county.

John Jacob Brant was six years old when his parents came to Putnam county and here he spent his childhood days and youth. He attended the common schools and helped his father, with whom he remained until he was twenty-four years of age. He was married, November 29, 1883, to Lydia M. Sneary, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, three miles north of Vaughnsville, on the homestead of her parents, on May 13, 1862. She was the daughter of John and Margaret (Myrlatt) Sneary. John Sneary was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on February 1, 1876, and died on the old homestead, June 9, 1902. He was the son of John and Susannah (Turner) Sneary, who were likewise natives of Tuscarawas county, Ohio. They came to Putnam county when John was sixteen years of age and settled in the timber land. Here they established a home in the wilderness and it is on this homestead that John Jacob Brant now lives. John and Margaret Sneary had seven children, Mary Ann, who died when about seven years of age; George, who died when two years of age; James M.; Rebecca, who was killed by a traction car, August 11, 1913, when fifty-three years of age; Lydia M., the wife of Mr. Brant; William T. and Sarah Elizabeth.

After the marriage of Mr. Brant, he was employed on neighboring farms for two years and then rented the James Vale farm near Kalida, where he remained for five years. At the end of that period, he purchased the home farm of his wife from the heirs and has resided here since that time. This farm consists of eighty acres and is improved in every respect. It has a seven-room residence, nicely situated and a large barn, thirty-six by fifty-four feet, as well as a cattle shed, sixteen by sixty feet. Other buildings are in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Brant has always done general farming and has been very successful.

To John Jacob and Lydia M. (Seary) Brant, six children have been born, Augusta Elizabeth, on November 22, 1884, who is the wife of Clarence E. Vandemark, and has had five children, Harold, Otho Maud, James Brant, who died at the age of three years, Virgil Leon and Lawrence Edwin; Frederick Forest, June 10, 1888, died on January 20, 1892; John Clifton, May 24,

1891, died on January 22, 1892; an infant son, who died at birth; Clarence Dewey, March 20, 1898, and Bessie Agatha, February 4, 1903.

John Jacob Brant in politics is a Democrat. He and his wife and family are all members of the Christian church at Vaughnsville. Mr. Brant is a clean-cut, progressive farmer and has managed to accumulate an exceptionally good farm of eighty acres. He is well and favorably known, not only in Sugar Creek, but in adjoining townships. His character and reputation have always been above reproach.

CHARLES P. IRWIN.

Some farmers would find, if their books were balanced at the end of the year, that they could have made more money by working for a dollar a day for some one else, yet it would take careful balance to convince them of their loss. Some farmers, however, can tell almost definitely what the various departments of the farm are producing in the way of profit. The most progressive farmers of the present generation have devised simple methods of keeping track of their investments and their returns. Charles P. Irwin, a well-known farmer of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, has been successful because he has applied himself to the task of keeping separate accounting for his investment. Mr. Irwin is one of the progressive farmers of this section of Putnam county, who has discarded the rule-of-thumb method and who has undertaken to put his farm operations on a business basis.

Charles P. Irwin was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, on December 9, 1876. He is a son of Benjamin F. and Lydia Jane (Hayden) Irwin. Benjamin F. Irwin was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on November 30, 1821, and came to Putnam county in 1832. He was the son of Josiah Kennedy and Catherine (Barkman) Irwin. Benjamin F. Irwin's first wife, Sarah J. Leese, was born on April 26, 1836, and died June 28, 1861. By this marriage there were four children, Herman L., born on June 16, 1855; Margaret A., September 5, 1857; Eva, August 1, 1859, and Sarah J., June 28, 1861. After the death of his first wife, Sarah J. (Leese) Irwin, Benjamin F. Irwin was married again on March 28, 1864, to Lydia J. Hayden, who was born in Starke county, Ohio, on May 7, 1839, and was the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Brothers) Hayden. To this second marriage the following children were born: Martha Emma, on March 9, 1865; Clement L., July 26, 1866, died on September 19, 1866; George T., September 20, 1867; Benjamin F., Jr., August 25, 1869; Nathaniel K., January 20, 1871; James

A., March 13, 1874; Charles P., the subject of this sketch, December 9, 1876; Kemmer L., May 16, 1879, and Guy, living in Pleasant township. Benjamin F. Irwin had an uncle in the War of 1812.

Benjamin F. Irwin was a successful farmer and he was especially successful in raising horses, and attributed his success to this department of the farm work. At one time he owned about six hundred acres of land in Pleasant and Sugar Creek townships.

Charles P. Irwin, the son of Benjamin F. and Lydia Jane (Hayden) Irwin, spent his youth and childhood on his father's old homestead and attended the old Turner district school. After finishing school he continued to help his father on the old home place until he was twenty-one years of age.

Charles P. Irwin was married on May 25, 1898, to Sarah Amanda Miller, who was born in Monroe township, Allen county, on May 3, 1873, and who was the daughter of Henry and Mary (Sauer) Miller. Henry Miller was born on April 29, 1841, in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and died, March 7, 1912, on the old Miller homestead in Allen county. He came to America with his parents at the age of nine years and settled in Monroe township, Allen county. Here he lived the balance of his life. Henry was the son of Michael and Catherine (Kunkleman) Miller, and was one of four sons, the others being John, Christian and Adam. Mrs. Mary (Sauer) Miller was born in Prussia on January 21, 1847, and was the daughter of Frantz and Catherine (Harmon) Sauer. She came to America when seven years of age with her parents, who settled first in Pickaway county and a few years later moved to Monroe township, Allen county. Here Frantz Sauer lived the remainder of his life, dying June, 1904, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife, Catherine, still survives him and now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Minerva Holmes, at Loomis, Michigan. Frantz and Catherine Sauer had three children, Mary, Louisa and Minerva, all living. Henry and Mary Miller had fourteen children, all of whom are living and all of whom are married, except three. They are as follow: Margaret, John, Emma, Anna, Alice, Sarah, Caroline, Bertha, William, Harmon, Louis, Clara, Grace and Arthur.

After his marriage, Charles P. Irwin took up his residence on the east half of the one hundred and twenty acres owned by his father in the northeast part of Sugar Creek township. He has resided here ever since. Prior to his marriage one year, and for six years thereafter, Mr. Irwin and his brother, James, farmed in partnership. After the marriage of James A. Irwin the one hundred and twenty acres were divided. In addition to the

sixty acres which Mr. Irwin owned, he and his brother farmed forty acres adjoining on the southeast, making eighty acres which each has under cultivation. Mr. Irwin devotes particular attention to hogs and corn, and has been very successful.

Charles P. and Sarah Amanda (Miller) Irwin have had six children, as follow: Charles Clarence, deceased; Miller; Harold Arthur; Edith Grace; Ruth Marie, and Howard Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Irwin attend the Christian church at Columbus Grove. Mr. Irwin is a Democrat. He has not, however, been especially active in political affairs, but has devoted himself almost exclusively to his life's vocation. Mr. Irwin is a man of sterling integrity, fair and square in his dealings with his fellow men and admired and respected by them.

ALBERT REESE.

Few residents of Putnam county are as well and favorably known as the enterprising farmer and representative citizen, whose life story is briefly told in the following lines, and none stands higher than he in the esteem and confidence of the community in which he resides and for the material advancement of which he has devoted much of his time and influence.

Albert Reese was born in Butler county, Ohio, on November 17, 1866, the son of Evan and Margaret (Watkins) Reese. Evan Reese is a native of North Wales, having been born in the parish of Llangadfan on June 1, 1833. The paternal grandfather of Albert Reese was Robert Reese, who was a schoolmaster and music teacher for about twenty-five years. His first wife died when Evan Reese was about four years of age, and about five or six years later he was again married. To the first union were born seven children, Robert, Jr., Mary, John, David, Jane, Evan and Thomas. By the second union there was one child, Edward. All of these children, excepting the last named, came to America, settling first in Butler county, Ohio. Robert and Mary came over first, being followed a few years later by John, David, Jane and Thomas, and eventually Evan came, being eighteen years of age at the time of his immigration. After reaching this country, he was employed on the farm of his brother, Robert, for a few years but, in about 1860, he came to Gomer, Allen county, Ohio, where he remained until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, faithful to his adopted country, he enlisted as a private in Company F, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volun-

teer Infantry. He served throughout the war in the western army and, at the close of the conflict, received an honorable discharge, when he returned to Gomer, where he remained about one year and then, after his marriage, moved to Butler county, where, for about six years, he engaged in agricultural pursuits. Some years later they removed to Allen county and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, near Gomer, the only improvement on the place being a log house, a frame barn and about one-half of the land cleared. To the clearing and the improvement of the remainder of this land, Mr. Reese devoted himself, and, eventually, found himself the owner of a finely improved and productive farm. About a year after locating on this place, he erected a small frame house of four rooms and about 1885 he bought eighty acres adjoining his farm on the west. On this rented place was a good set of buildings and the land was all cleared excepting about twenty-five or thirty acres. Here Mr. Reese remained until about 1890, when he moved to St. Marys, Ohio, where he has continued to reside, selling his former home in 1905.

Evan Reese was married three times. First to Margaret Watkins, who died in January, 1882. To this union were born seven children, Albert, Thomas R., David H., William E., Jennie Alice, Samuel and Jessie, the two latter children dying in infancy. About 1886, Evan Reese married Mrs. Mary (Watkins) Thomas, who died about three years later, leaving no children. In 1894, Mr. Reese married Addie Young, who is his present wife. To this union no children have been born.

Albert Reese spent his childhood and early youth on his father's farm near Vaughnsville, in Allen county, and received his education mainly in the district schools. When about twenty-three years of age, he took a course of music in the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware but, aside from this, has been mainly self-educated, being a close reader and keen observer of men and events. He remained with his father on the old homestead until about twenty-six years of age, when he rented a farm near Vaughnsville and remained for two years. In the spring of 1895, he moved to the Bennett farm, to the cultivation of which he devoted himself until 1911, when he moved to Vaughnsville, where he now resides. He has, during these years, devoted himself to a general line of farming, raising all of the crops peculiar to this section of the country and has been very successful in all of his operations, being numbered among the intelligent and progressive farmers of his community. He has, for many years, occupied the front rank among the agriculturists of his locality and was one of the organizers of the Vaughnsville Crop and Improvement Association, one of the most influential organiza-

tions of its kind in this section of the state. He believes, most emphatically, in progress along his line and is interested in all things which have to do with the advancement of his community.

On February 17, 1893, Albert Reese was married to Jennie Bennett, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on February 7, 1870, the daughter of John and Ann (Davis) Bennett, natives of North Wales. John Bennett came to America about 1868, settling in Van Wert county, Ohio, for a short time and later coming to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, where he met Mrs. Ann (Davis) Garner, to whom he was married and to which union one child, Jennie, was born. To Albert and Jennie (Bennett) Reese have been born three children, Mabel, Marguerite and Mary.

Mr. Reese is an ardent exponent of Republican principles and has taken an active part in local political affairs. He was elected trustee of his township and also served as school director in his home district. In his party, he has long been prominent and served as a member of the county executive committee with efficiency and to the advantage of his party. Mr. and Mrs. Reese are faithful members of the Congregational church. Mr. Reese is a member of the official board and is active in the various interests of the church. He is a man who, in every respect, has merited the high esteem in which he is universally held, for he is characterized by public spirit, honest motives and a clean life.

JOSIRUS R. REESE.

An enterprising farmer of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, is Josirus R. Reese, who has made this county his home since 1865. He has been a life-long farmer, and, although the farm which his father bought here in 1872, was then a timbered swamp, today it is largely under cultivation and producing excellent crops. Most of this county was originally of a swampy nature, but under the skillful management of such farmers as Mr. Reese, it has been drained and made to blossom as the rose.

Josirus R. Reese, the son of John Y. and Lucinda (Handshy) Reese, was born in 1858, in Hancock county, Ohio. His father was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1834, and was a son of Joseph and Mary (Young) Reese, who came from Washington county, Pennsylvania.

John Y. Reese was only about a year old when his parents moved from Trumbull county, Ohio, to Putnam county, and located along the county line

northeast of Bluffton. His parents bought government land and were among the first settlers in Riley township. John Y. Reese was reared to manhood in Putnam county, and later moved to Hancock county and married Lucinda Handshy, in 1857, who was born in this county, and is a daughter of Sebastian and Sarah (Nickerson) Handshy.

Sebastian Handshy was born in Germany and came to America with his parents, Jacob Handshy and wife, at the age of ten. The Handshys made their home in Fairfield county, Ohio, and Sebastian grew up in that county and there married Sarah Nickerson. Later, he moved to a farm near Columbus Grove, while the county was just being settled, their nearest neighbor being three miles away. The Handshys moved to Hancock county in 1837, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Lucinda Handshy grew to womanhood in Hancock county and was living there at the time of her marriage to John Y. Reese, who, with his family, moved to Putnam county in 1863, and located in Liberty township. Mr. Reese bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in 1872, north of the Ridge road, in section 15, of this township, and there made his permanent home. Two children were born to John Y. Reese and wife, Josirus R. and Martha Roselda. Martha R. married Perry Alleman, and had one son, Benjamin Harrison, who lives at Lima, Ohio. He married Etta Applegate, and has one son, Jesse Derrell.

Josirus R. Reese was about fourteen years of age when his his parents moved to the farm on which he is now living, and where he has since made his home. He helped his father to clear the land and to bring it under cultivation, which land was originally heavily timbered and so swampy as to be almost impassable. In fact, John Y. Reese said, a few years before he bought it, that he would not have it as a gift. The first house was a rude log cabin which previously stood on the Montouth farm on the southeast quarter of section 15, on the north side of the Ridge road, from whence it was moved to its present location, where it is still standing, being one of the oldest log cabins in the county. Josirus R. helped his father clear and drain the land and father and son worked together until the death of the father, on June 20, 1908, who was a man of strong character and was highly esteemed by his neighbors.

Josirus R. Reese has never married and now lives with his mother on the old home farm. About eighty-five acres of the one hundred and twenty are under cultivation, while the rest is still timber land. The family are members of the United Brethren church. Mr. Reese is a quiet and unassuming man, a good neighbor and deserves the respect which is accorded him by his fellow citizens.

DANIEL RICHARD RISSER.

The best history of a community or state is that which deals most with the lives and activities of the people, especially of those, who by their own endeavors and indomitable energy, have forged to the front and placed themselves where they deserve the title of progressive men. In this brief review is to be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active brothers on the highway of life, and achieved a splendid career in business affairs, and a name which all men who know him delight to honor, owing to his upright life and habits of thrift and industry.

Daniel R. Risser, a successful business man and leading citizen of Vaughnsville, was born in Sugar Creek township, on August 27, 1865, and is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth M. (Smith) Risser. Daniel Risser, the father, was born in Durkheim, Bavaria, Germany, on January 1, 1836, the son of Abraham and Catherine (Sunzenich) Risser. In 1857, Daniel Risser came to America, first settling in Cleveland, Ohio, where he engaged in the operation of a transfer and bus line. On the outbreak of the Civil War, David and Christian Risser enlisted in the Union army, serving throughout that great struggle in the defense of their adopted country. Some time after locating in Cleveland, Daniel Risser went to Vera Cruz, Mexico, as an employe of a Cleveland concern who were engaged in the operation of a stage line from Vera Cruz across the isthmus to Tehuantepec. This venture, however, was not successful, and six months later Mr. Risser returned to Cleveland where he remained until 1859, when he and his brother Henry came to Putnam county, locating in Sugar Creek township, where they bought land. Daniel Risser bought eighty acres, located one and one-half miles southeast of Vaughnsville, which became the family homestead. At that time the only improvements on the place were a log cabin and stable, and but a small amount of the land had been cleared. Daniel Risser devoted himself to improving the farm, erecting substantial buildings, tiling and ditching the land, so that eventually it became one of the best-improved and most-productive pieces of farming land in that section of the county. He was very industrious and intelligent in his affairs, and by good management and economical habits, he became well to do and finally became the owner of seven hundred acres of land. He carried on general farming operations, in connection with which he gave considerable attention to the breeding and raising of live stock.

Daniel Risser died at the home of his son, Daniel R., at Vaughnsville, on September 15, 1902, at the age of sixty-six years, and his widow died here



DANIEL R. RISSEK.



THOMAS CARP

on November 2, 1911, at the ripe old age of seventy-five years. She had been a consistent and faithful member of the Christian church for many years. Mr. Risser was a Democrat in politics, and in his religious belief was affiliated with the German Lutheran church.

At the age of twenty-six years, and on August 14, 1862, Daniel Risser was united in marriage to Elizabeth M. Smith, whose birth occurred in Ashland county, Ohio, on April 18, 1836. She was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Risser) Smith, who came to Putnam county, Ohio, in 1865, buying the farm adjoining the one owned by Mr. Risser. There were five children in the Smith family, Mary, Elizabeth, Catherine, Charlotte and Jacob, all being now deceased, excepting the two last named. To Daniel and Elizabeth Risser were born six children, namely: Julius C., on February 25, 1864; Daniel R., the immediate subject of this sketch; Otto, December 20, 1867; John J., July 21, 1870; Emma L., February 28, 1873; Elizabeth A., October 28, 1876. All of these children are living, except Emma, who died on March 5, 1893, shortly after her marriage.

Daniel Richard Risser spent his childhood and youth on the old homestead farm in Sugar Creek township, assisting his father when old enough, in the cultivation and operation of the farm. His preliminary education was received in the old Michael district school, which was supplemented by later attendance at the Northwestern (Ohio) University at Ada, where he took a business course. Upon the completion of his studies, Mr. Risser returned to the home farm where he remained until the spring of 1892, when he engaged in the grain business at Vaughnsville, a business which demanded his time and attention continuously since that time. From the beginning Mr. Risser met with good success, and as he prospered he added other lines of business, including agricultural implements, tools, lumber and building supplies, in the handling of which he has met a long felt want in his community. In addition to his establishment at Vaughnsville, Mr. Risser also operates a similar concern at Rimer and Rushmore, this county, and is also interested in concerns of a like nature at Columbus Grove and Jenera, Hancock county. That he is a man of good business qualifications, is evident in the fact that he gives careful attention to the multitudinous details of these various establishments, all of which have been successful under his guidance. Mr. Risser, in connection with his brother also operates a quarter section of land in Allen county, and one hundred and eighty-seven acres in Wayne county, which he has found a profitable source of income. He is a stockholder in the Peoples Banking Company of Vaughnsville, and in various ways is actively and

materially interested in the business interests of his community. Broad-minded, sagacious and far-sighted, his counsel is considered valuable in all matters of business, and he stands high in the esteem of his contemporaries, being well and favorably known throughout this section of the state.

Mr. Risser is a Democrat, taking an active and intelligent interest in public affairs, and has served several terms efficiently as treasurer of Sugar Creek township. This township being, normally, strongly Republican in politics, it is a marked testimony to Mr. Risser's standing among his fellow citizens, that he, a Democrat, should successively be elected to this most important township office. Fraternally, he is a charter member of Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias, and also belongs to Vaughnsville Lodge No. 312, Knights of the Maccabees. Mr. Risser has never married, and now resides with his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Redding, in Vaughnsville.

JAMES G. THOMAS.

The farmer of today must needs be more than the farmer of a half century ago, or even a decade past. He must be broader and more intelligent, his sympathies must be more diversified and his ideals must be higher and his ambitions wider. The farmer of today needs good, intellectual training, he needs scientific training, in fact. He, however, needs the practical science of education, somewhat different from that which the agricultural colleges are giving, and which are training young men to be agricultural scientists rather than practical farmers. The agricultural colleges, however, have done something to demonstrate that intellectual vision and mental activity are quite as necessary to successful farming as physical energy. James G. Thomas, a prominent farmer of Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, is a man who especially believes in scientific training for the farm. Mr. Thomas is one of the well-known farmers residing near Vaughnsville.

James G. Thomas was born in Jennings township, Putnam county, on September 4, 1881, and is the son of John and Sarah (Good) Thomas. John Thomas was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, in 1845, where he died at Rimer in 1882. John Thomas was the son of James and ——— (Morgan) Thomas. James Thomas was born in Wales and came to America in the early days, settling near Gomer, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. John Thomas spent his childhood and youth on his

father's homestead farm. Here he received his early education and here he remained until his marriage. His occupation was thrashing, which he followed until the time of his death. He was married, at the age of about thirty, to Sarah Good, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1858, and who was the daughter of Isaac and Mary (Rhinehart) Good, the former was a native of Fairfield county, as well as his wife. They settled in Putnam county in the early days and lived in Sugar Creek township, and Jennings township. It was in the latter township that he lived at the time of his marriage to James G. Thomas's mother. They had two children, James G. and Bertha M., the latter of whom is the wife of Ellis Hess, and resides in Darke county, Ohio.

A few years after his marriage John Thomas died, in 1882, and after this his wife Sarah remained single until 1898, when she was married to Isaac Krouse. No children have been born to this last union. They now reside in Darke county, Ohio.

James G. Thomas spent his childhood on the home farm of his grandfather Good, where he lived for nine years. After this, his mother moved to Kalida, where he also lived for the ensuing four years. After his mother's second marriage, he moved to the farm of Isaac Krouse, in Jennings township, where they remained three or four years, when his mother and stepfather moved to Darke county. This was his residence until he was twenty-one years of age.

At this time, on September 17, 1902, Mr. Thomas was married to Cora Leona Sherrick, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 1, 1882, and who is the daughter of David and Aseneth (Parcher) Sherrick. The former was born in Crawford county, Ohio, on October 29, 1837, and died in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on June 1, 1912. He was the son of Joseph and Rebecca (Bibler) Sherrick, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and who settled in Crawford county. They came later to Putnam county about 1865, and settled first near Rimer, and then near Columbus Grove, where he died. His wife, Rebecca, spent her last years with her son, David, in Sugar Creek township. David Sherrick came to Putnam county about 1863, and settled first at Pleasant valley, Jennings township. Later, he moved two and one-half miles north of Rimer, and here he and his wife resided for the remainder of their lives. David Sherrick was a successful farmer and owned one hundred and seventy-six acres of well-improved land. He was a member of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Episcopal church. His wife, Aseneth, was a member of the Ottawa River Christian church. Aseneth (Parcher) Sherrick was born on April 3,

1841, and died in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, March 31, 1906.

After his marriage, James G. Thomas took up his residence on the Sherrick home place and has resided here ever since. He has always done general farming, and has been an advocate, especially, of diversified farming. His home farm of one hundred acres is one of the best-improved farms in Sugar Creek township. It has a beautiful seven-room residence and a large and commodious barn and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings.

To James G. and Cora Leona (Sherrick) Thomas and wife have been born the following children: David, on July 15, 1903; Dale, April 22, 1906, and Devere, May 22, 1910.

Mr. Thomas is a member of the Pleasant Valley Methodist Episcopal church and is a trustee in this church. Mrs. Thomas is also a member. Mr. Thomas is a Republican. He is one of Sugar Creek township's progressive young farmers. He is well and favorably known and well liked by all his neighbors, not only in Sugar Creek township, but in adjoining townships.

WILLIAM L. WOLLAM.

It is the farmer who makes it possible for man in other occupations to live. Farming was the original occupation of man and it is the only profession or business which could exist independently of all others. Indeed, every occupation is dependent upon the farmer. The products of the farm have made our railroads what they are today, and the great bulk of manufacturing is made necessary because of the farmer's needs. The people of the city could not live a week without the farmer's products. He holds not only the purse-strings of the nation, but even the very life of the people. For this reason the farmer has in reality the most important business of all. Putnam county has as fine farms and as good farmers as can be found anywhere in the state of Ohio, and among them is William L. Wollam, who is also a well-known automobile agent.

William L. Wollam was born on June 4, 1854, in Delaware county, Ohio. He is a son of Daniel and Rebecca (Evans) Wollam. Daniel Wollam was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1815, and about 1840 moved to Union county with his first wife, whose maiden name was Lite, and who died a short time after her marriage, leaving her husband with one child, a daughter, who died about 1905. He afterward married Rebecca Evans, and,

in 1888, moved to Hardin county, where his wife died, in 1889, at the age of fifty-four years, while he lived to reach the age of eighty-one years. He had four brothers and one sister. Peter, John and Jacob died in Union county, while Joseph died in Putnam county. Daniel Wollam was a son of Benjamin Wollam, who died in Fairfield county, Ohio. Benjamin's father was Baltzer Wollam, who died in Columbiana county, Ohio. Baltzer was a son of Jacob Wollam, who died in Berkeley county, West Virginia, in 1778. Jacob Wollam is supposed to have come from Germany. Daniel Wollam was a farmer throughout his active life, and owned a small farm and home in Hardin county, where he engaged in raising truck. He was a Democrat, and while he was a member of no church, he was reared as an adherent to the German Reform church, but was not an active member. Mrs. Rebecca (Evans) Wollam's parents came from Virginia, migrating to Ohio, where she was born and where she spent her womanhood.

Benjamin Wollam moved from Berkeley county, West Virginia, to near Martinsburg, Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1804, and here he built a cabin on the banks of Rush creek. He owned two hundred acres of land seven miles from Lancaster, Ohio, from which farm his children went to and from Lancaster to school, and to study the Heidelberg catechism under old Father Wise, one of the pioneer ministers of the German Reformed church. They were trained to be thorough and, subsequently, were successful in whatever they undertook.

Daniel and Rebecca (Evans) Wollam were the parents of nine children, Charlotte, who died at the age of fifteen years; William L., the immediate subject of this review; Levi, of Ada, Ohio; Christina, who is now Mrs. Foss, lives at Bradentown, Florida, but were formerly residents of Ada, Ohio; John, a piano tuner of Cherryville, Kansas; James, who died at the age of fifteen years; Frank, living at Columbus, Ohio, where he is a teacher in the public schools; Mary, the wife of Frank Wright, Ada, Ohio; Missouri, the wife of Frank Sliger, of Columbus, Ohio; Charles, who died at the age of nineteen years.

William L. Wollam grew up in Delaware county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county at the age of twenty-eight years in 1881, settling at Dupont, where he resided for fifteen years. He was educated in the public schools of Delaware county.

Mr. Wollam was married on October 7, 1882, to Ida Davis, a native of Vermillion county, Illinois, born on May 20, 1863, the daughter of Richard and Mary A. (Layton) Davis. Richard Davis was born in Pennsylvania on March 3, 1823. His parents moved to Marion, Ohio, about four years later,

where he was married to Mary A. Layton, of that county, in 1845. They moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, in 1853, where they resided for seventeen years. They moved to Bryan in 1871, where they spent their declining years. Richard Davis died at Bryan, July 13, 1909, at the age of eighty-six years. His wife, who was born in Pennsylvania on May 10, 1828, died at Bryan, January 30, 1908, the age of eighty years. She moved with her parents to Marion county, in 1831. Eleven daughters were born to Richard and Mary A. (Layton) Davis, eight of whom are still living, Mrs. Wollam being the ninth daughter born to her parents. Mrs. Mary A. (Layton) Davis was a member of the Christian church at Bryan, Ohio.

William L. and Ida (Davis) Wollam are the parents of seven children, Zoe, who is in the employ of the Ann Arbor Railway Company, of Toledo, Ohio, where she is in the auditor's office, and has been there for nine years; Rolly R., living in Young America, Minnesota, where he is operating a meat market; Edith, the wife of J. H. Rutledge, lives in Montana, near Powers, on a ranch, and they have one child, William; Mary Rebecca, the wife of John Potts, has one child, Zoe; Helen, at home, is employed in the Continental Bank, where she is bookkeeper; Walter, living at home, and Agnes, the youngest of the family, is also living at home with her parents.

William L. Wollam left Dupont, Ohio, for the farm he had purchased while living there. Mr. Wollam traded a horse and buggy, one hundred dollars in money, and a note for one hundred and seventy-five dollars for forty acres of land in Putnam county. He came to this place and cleared up the land, afterward returning to his old home in Delaware county, Ohio, where he worked for fifteen dollars a month to assist in paying off the note on his land, and by hard work, succeeded in paying the note, and now has a splendid farm. He came from Delaware county with several companions in a covered wagon, and hunted deer on the way. Mr. Wollam, subsequently, bought sixty acres across the road from his original forty. He farmed until March, 1913, when he moved to Continental, where he is now living. Mr. Wollam has written insurance for the past thirty years. He has also been in the organ and piano business for a part of that time, and sold musical instruments all over the northwestern part of Ohio. In June, 1914, he contracted for the agency of the Overland automobile, and has the exclusive right to sell this machine in Putnam county. He is active in the sale of automobiles and has built up a big business in Putnam county.

Fraternally, Mr. Wollam is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, having taken all the degrees of this order, including the thirty-second. He was a charter member of the first Knights of Pythias lodge in Putnam

county, which was started in Dupont. He was also a charter member of the lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows in Dupont, but is not active in either of the latter lodges at the present time. He joined the Masonic order at Kalida, Ohio, and became a charter member of the lodge at Continental, where he was the first secretary. Mr. Wollam belongs to the blue lodge at Continental, the chapter at Ottawa, the Knights Templar at Defiance, and the consistory at Toledo, Ohio. With the exception of his membership on the county board of elections, for the past eight years, Mr. Wollam has not held office. He is a staunch Democrat. Mrs. Wollam is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Continental. For many years Mr. Wollam has been a member of the school board and active in educational affairs in the community where he lives. He is an active member of the agricultural board and superintendent of speed which position he has held for many years. He is a man of untiring energy, well and favorably known throughout Putnam county and bears a high reputation in the community for fair and square dealing.

JOHN HENRY MEYER.

Men who have cleared the land, drained the swamps and erected new buildings and fences, making the soil teem with growing crops, are entitled to the rank of the foremost citizens of any community. John Henry Meyer, an enterprising farmer of Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, has done all of these things.

John Henry Meyer was born at Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, the son of Gerhard B. and Mary (Moening) Meyer. Gerard B. Meyer was born in Germany, the son of Theodore and Anna Mary (Mersman) Meyer, who were born and married in Germany and came to Glandorf, Putnam county, about 1834. Theodore Meyer helped to build the canal. He had many thrilling experiences with the Indians who came to this place at that time. On one occasion the mother went to Lima to get flour and walked all the way, carrying the flour on her shoulder. Theodore Meyer cleared the land on Cranberry creek, southwest of Ottawa, and there spent his life. They reared a family of five children: Gerhard B., Bernard, Theodore, Mary Theresa and George Henry.

John H. Meyer is one of six sons and three daughters, of whom one son died when eight years old; the others are Henry, Theodore, Joseph Herman, Frank, Mary, Katie and Elizabeth. Katie married and died about

nine years ago, leaving one son, Frank. The other brothers and sisters are all living.

John Henry Meyer lived at home until twenty-two years old when, in 1880, he was married to Katie Ellerbrock, the daughter of Ferdinand and Theresa (Kleman) Ellerbrock. She died in 1907. She was the mother of two sons and five daughters, Elizabeth, Theresa, Lucy, Minnie, Harry, Clara and Edward. Elizabeth is the wife of Charles Niese and lives on a farm near Ottawa. They have three children. Theresa, the wife of Casper Schmenk, lives in New Cleveland, Liberty township, and has three children; Lucy, the wife of Theodore Ruhe, lives at Miller City and has three children; Minnie, the wife of Frank Schroeder, lives north of Leipsic in Van Buren township and has three sons; Harry is at home; Clara is the wife of Walter Klass and lives at Miller City, and Edward is still at home.

After Mr. Meyer's first marriage he began farming about three miles southwest of Leipsic and five miles north of Ottawa, where he bought eighty acres of undrained land, and there were many water holes. He put this land in a state of cultivation and built an entire new group of buildings, including a splendid new brick house. He now owns one hundred and ninety acres of land, one hundred and fifty in the home farm and forty in Ottawa township. Mr. Meyer has operated a threshing outfit ever since he was a young man and is widely known as the most successful thresher in the community.

In 1909 he married Mrs. Annie (Lammers) Schroeder, the widow of John William Schroeder. She was born and reared at New Cleveland, the daughter of Henry and Gertrude (Siebeneck) Lammers.

Henry Lammers came from Germany and Mrs. Lammers was born at Glandorf, a daughter of Bernard Henry and Gertrude (Inkrot) Siebeneck. Bernard H. Siebeneck was born near Munster in Prussia and came to the United States, about 1835, and entered government land in Greensburg township. He remained there a year, when he went back to Germany and married there. Returning with his wife, they lived in Greensburg township the rest of their lives. Henry Lammers was a son of John Lammers and wife and came to America probably as early as 1850 and became a well-known farmer, spending the rest of his life on his farm in the northeastern part of Ottawa township, where his widow still resides.

Mrs. Meyer's first husband was J. William Schroeder, who was born on March 6, 1857, and died March 17, 1901. He was born at Glandorf, the son of Charles and Agnes (Hohenbrink) Schroeder. Charles Schroeder was born at Ostercappeln, Germany, and came to America at the age of six

years, about 1834, with his parents, Nicholas and Anna Schroeder, who settled in the wild woods of Greensburg township and suffered many privations of pioneer life, but in time the family prospered and Charles Schroeder became a successful farmer, owning over seven hundred acres of land. His son, J. William Schroeder, farmed at New Cleveland until his death.

Mrs. Meyer had seven children by her first marriage, four sons and three daughters: Charles, Frank, Jerome, August, Mary, Anna and Martha. Charles married Millie Kuhlman and has three children; Frank married Mr. Meyer's daughter Minnie the same day Mr. Meyer married Frank's mother; Mary is the wife of William Kuhlman; Anna married Charles Kuhlman and has two children living and one dead. Mr. Schroeder died in 1902. He was a life-long farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer and family are all members of the Catholic church at New Cleveland and are liberal contributors to its support.

DANIEL MILLER ALLEN.

The history of a county or state, as well as that of a nation, is chiefly a chronicle of the lives and deeds of those who have conferred honor and dignity upon society. The world judges the character of a community by those of its representative citizens and yields its tribute of admiration and respect to those whose works of action constitute the records of a community's prosperity and pride. Among the prominent citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, who are well-known because of their success in business affairs and the part they have taken in the educational and religious affairs of the locality, is Daniel Miller Allen, now a well-known real estate broker and insurance agent of Columbus Grove.

Daniel Miller Allen was born on June 30, 1868, in Auglaize county, Ohio. He is the son of Silas D. and Permelia C. (Miller) Allen. Silas D. Allen was born on August 18, 1844, in Auglaize county, the son of Warren C. and Mary (Coleman) Allen. Warren C. Allen was a native of Fairfield county, and came to Auglaize county in 1836, where he settled on land entered by his father, Whiting Allen. He continued to live in Auglaize county the remainder of his life, and died in 1859.

Silas D. Allen was reared on the old homestead farm and, at the age of seventeen, enlisted in the Forty-fifth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving through most of the war. His enlistment was made in 1862, and he

served three years, being discharged on June 9, 1865. His services were performed under Generals Gilmore and Burnside. On November 18, 1863, he was captured at Knoxville, Tennessee, and held a prisoner for fifteen months and eight days. During this time he was confined in the military prisons of Atlanta, Richmond, Belle Island, Andersonville, Charleston, South Carolina, Florence, South Carolina, and Goldsborough, North Carolina. From the last named prison he was paroled.

After the war, Silas D. Allen was married to Permelia C. Miller, who bore him three children: Mary S.; Daniel M., the subject of this sketch, and Arvilla D. Mary S. first married Grant D. Martin, who died about six years later. About eight years after her husband's death she married Isaac Willis Slagle and they now reside in Spokane, Washington. Arvilla D. is the widow of G. H. Daniels and now conducts a book store at Columbus Grove. For a time after his marriage Silas D. Allen engaged in farming and then went into the boot and shoe business at St. John's, Auglaize county, where he continued to do business for several years, which business he continued after he removed to Columbus Grove. A short time later he took up farming and truck gardening, which he continued for a few days. He then entered the butchering business and finally became interested with W. A. Perkins in the lumber and fork-handle manufacturing business, where he retained an interest for four years. Subsequently, he engaged in raising potatoes and sugar beets.

Silas D. Allen's wife, Permelia C. Miller, was born in Auglaize county, and is the daughter of Daniel and Susanna (Kingery) Miller, the former a native of Piqua county and the latter a native of Paulding county, where they were pioneers.

When Daniel Miller Allen was about four years old he came with his parents to Columbus Grove, and here attended the public schools until sixteen years of age, after which he took a commercial course at the Tri-State Normal College at Angola. After this he returned to Columbus Grove, and a little later took a position with the J. R. Hughes Wholesale and Retail House Furnishing Company. After about one and one-half years he became the manager of this concern and continued in this capacity for about two and one-half years longer. On account of ill health, he returned home, and about a year later, on June 16, 1893, he entered the insurance and real estate business with G. W. Core. A year later Mr. Allen purchased Mr. Core's interest and since that time has conducted the business alone. Mr. Allen has been very successful in this business and served a large clientele in the purchase and sale of real estate and in the insurance business. In addition to his other business, Mr. Allen, in 1906, in connection with B. F. Lugibihl, organized

the Columbus Grove Brick and Tile Company, which business has grown to be one of the best and largest in this section of Ohio.

Daniel M. Allen was married on June 12, 1895, to Mabel Halcyon Long, the daughter of Newton S. and Carrie C. (Stahl) Long. Mrs. Allen was one of three children and the eldest of the family; Medway D., who married Edna Gable and is bookkeeper in the Peoples Bank, and Clyde M., who is single and at home. Newton S. Long is now retired and lives at Columbus Grove. He has been a minister of the United Brethren church, as was his father before him, who was a pioneer circuit-rider and traveled over a large circuit in northwestern Ohio. He was a man noted for his strong character and for his wonderful voice. Mrs. Long's parents were pioneers of Sandusky county and came to this country from Germany in an early day.

Mr. Allen is a Republican. He has filled several positions of trust and responsibility, having been a member of the school board for twelve years, a member of the council for four years and a member of the board of public affairs for two years. Mr. Allen is a member of Lodge No. 364, Free and Accepted Masons, of the Knights of Pythias and of the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife and family are members of the United Brethren church, in which Mr. Allen is a trustee. In 1912 he was a delegate to the general conference of the church in Decatur, Illinois. Daniel M. Allen is a man highly esteemed in the community where he lives, a man known for his many good works, for his sterling integrity, his genial disposition and his natural powers of leadership.

PETER SEITZ.

The record of the gentleman whose name introduces this article contains no exciting chapter of tragic events, but is replete with well-defined purposes which won for him an influential place in business circles and high personal standing among his fellow citizens. His life work has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods which he has ever followed have resulted, not only in gaining the confidence of those with whom he has had dealings, but also in the gaining of material prosperity for himself.

Peter Seitz was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on October 30, 1882, and is a son of Benjamin F. and Sarah J. (Funk) Seitz. For a sketch containing his paternal and ancestral history, the reader is

referred to the sketch of Benjamin F. Seitz, which appears elsewhere in this book.

Peter Seitz was reared on the paternal homestead, four miles northwest of Vaughnsville, and his education was received in the old Seitz district school. After completing his common school course, he took a normal course of study at the Palmer University at Muncie, Indiana. Upon the completion of his studies, he returned home and for a while farmed a portion of his father's land. In 1904, he was married and during the following four or five years continued to operate a part of the paternal farm and then took charge of the entire place, his father having moved to Columbus Grove. In the spring of 1913, Mr. Seitz bought eighty acres of land west of Hog creek, to the operation of which he gave his attention for two years and then, in the spring of 1914, returned to the old home place, where he now resides. Because of his character and the success which he has attained in his chosen vocation, he is well and favorably known throughout this section of the county. He maintains the farm at the highest standard of agricultural excellence and, by following up-to-date and progressive ideas, has succeeded in receiving a noteworthy success.

On February 10, 1904, Mr. Seitz was married to Dulia Dreasky, who was born in Jackson township, Putnam county, on April 7, 1880, the daughter of Arthur and Nora (Dray) Dreasky. She was one of three children, the others being Myrtle and Alonzo. Arthur Dreasky was born on September 28, 1853, near Bucyrus, Ohio, the son of George and Rebecca (Meadly) Dreasky, the former of whom was a native of Germany and a pioneer settler of Ohio. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His wife, Rebecca Meadly, was a native of this country. Mrs. Seitz's mother, Nora Dray, was born in West Virginia, near Steubenville, Ohio, December 30, 1860, the daughter of John W. and Judith (Fisher) Dray, both of whom were natives of Steubenville, Ohio.

To Peter and Dulia (Dreasky) Seitz have been born four children, Charles, on March 21, 1905; Clarence, April 13, 1906, died on September 25, 1907; Blanche, September 27, 1907, and Myrtle, October 15, 1909.

Mr. Seitz is a Democrat and takes an intelligent and commendable interest in local affairs. He is a member of the Ottawa River Christian church, of which he is a trustee and of which Mrs. Seitz is also a member. He is also a member of the Valley Grange, of which he is the present overseer. In every phase of life's activities, he has performed his part to the best of his ability and has earned the commendation and approval of all who know him.

ANTON KUHLMAN.

Philosophy and experience teach us that society is more quickly ameliorated and best improved by the advancement of the individual. That is to say, if a person will attend to his or her own uplift, it stands as a matter of course that the entire body of society will benefit thereby. The greatest factor in this work is example; the life and deeds of every individual are sure to react upon their fellows. The proof of this is found in the study of the life of Anton Kuhlman, who has materially aided his community by a quiet and unassuming example.

Anton Kuhlman was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 26, 1850, his parents being John Theodore and Anna (Schwatzengraber) Kuhlman, who were also the parents of Theodore, Barney and Henry, who live on adjoining farms in Ottawa township. Frank and John are both deceased.

Born in Germany, Theodore Kuhlman came to America with his parents at the age of fourteen. He was mechanically inclined, and when not working on the farm made machinery in a small shop, making three separators, two of which he sold, keeping the other for his own use. Altogether he accumulated six hundred acres of land, which he bought uncleared and made valuable by hard work. To each of three sons he deeded one hundred and seven acres, and to the other son, Theodore, he gave eighty acres. Theodore, the elder, followed general farming throughout his life and died on the farm January 6, 1889. He was a power in the community, a member of the Catholic church and was a Democrat.

It is related of Theodore Kuhlman that he was compelled, in pioneer days, to take his pork and grain to Deliance, in a boat built by himself, which would hold five hundred bushels of wheat. For this boat he hewed his own lumber; its proportions were seventy-four feet long and six feet wide. Pork was packed on top of the wheat. Theodore slept in the boat during his trips.

Anna Kuhlman was also born in Germany and came to America with her parents about two years later than did her future husband. Her parents also settled in Glandorf. She died, August 18, 1877, mourned as a kind neighbor and a loving mother.

Living at home until his marriage, Anton Kuhlman located on the place given him by his father, which he cleared, fenced and drained, and on which he built numerous new buildings. At the present time he is an influential farmer, an automobile enthusiast and a good roads advocate.

On May 26, 1874, Mr. Kuhlman was married a second time, to Agnes Lefken, the daughter of Henry and Theresa (Hundepohl) Lefken, the former of whom was a native of Germany, who settled on an uncleared Putnam county farm in the early days, and became a successful farmer. He and his wife had six children: Elizabeth, who married Barney Gerding; Mrs. Myrtle Kuhlman; Mrs. Anna Kuhlman, who died on December 2, 1910; Agnes, the wife of the subject; Magdalena married Frank Doepper and lives in Glanford; Mrs. Helena Becker is deceased. To Anton and Agnes (Lefken) Kuhlman and wife were born the six children described as follow: Barney, who married Emma Helker, lives on an Ottawa township farm and has four children, Hilda, Leona, Bernard and Louisa; William married Mary Schroeder and lives on an Ottawa township farm; Andrew married Mary Lammers and lives on a farm in Blanchard township, and has three children, Arthur, Carl and Genevieve; Emma, who married Joseph Schmenk, lives on Ottawa township farm and has four children, Rudolph, Mildred, Elmer and Alice; George married Susan Nadler and lives in the parental home; Harry also lives at home.

An active worker in the Democratic party, Mr. Kuhlman has never sought office. He is a member of the New Cleveland Catholic church, as is his family. Mr. Kuhlman is congenial, stands high in the regard of his neighbors, and supports all movements which will benefit the county. He is a kind and loving father and so lives that his example is a powerful agent for good.

THOMAS MILTON TEEGARDIN.

Among the men in Putnam county who has won the confidence and high esteem of his friends, neighbors and fellow citizens, is Thomas Milton Teegardin who has grown up in this community and has always led an exemplary life. Having kept within the bounds of the straight and narrow path in the pursuit of all that is good in this life and pointed out as one worthy of the recognition of the historian, it is without any limitation except for space that we record the ancestry and work of the subject of this review.

Thomas Milton Teegardin was born on September 6, 1874, in Columbus Grove, Ohio, and is the son of Joseph H. and Sarah E. (Mayberry) Teegardin. His father, Joseph H., was born on March 19, 1840, in Monroe township, in Allen county, and was the son of Henry and Rachel (Decker) Teegardin. Henry Teegardin was born in Franklin county, on September

19, 1810, and there married Rachel Decker on October 28, 1834. At a later date, they came to Allen county, where he farmed one hundred and sixty acres until the time of his death which occurred, January 31, 1856. To them were born nine children, Polly (Mrs. Knouse), deceased; Betsey (Mrs. Murphy); Joseph; Peter; Jackson; Sarah Ann; John, all of whom are now deceased; William and Daniel. After the death of Henry Teegardin, his wife was married, a second time, to James Mayberry, who died on April 10, 1867; she died, February 8, 1899. To this union there was one child born, Ida Annis (Mrs. Griffith), on May 22, 1862, and who now lives in the town of Hicksville, Ohio.

Joseph H. Teegardin remained under the parental roof during his youthful days and received his education in the township schools of Monroe township. He remained with his father until the time of his marriage, after which he farmed a forty-acre tract which was deeded to him by his father at a later date. He remained on this place for a while and then decided to sell out and remove to Putnam county, where he located in Columbus Grove. In this locality, he made it a business to farm at various places in the township, his principal vocation, however, being the operation of a threshing outfit in season, and teaming. A few years later, he bought a farm in Pleasant township, northwest of Columbus Grove, where he continued the business of farming until the year of his death, which occurred on March 11, 1891. His wife, Sarah E. Mayberry, was a native of Plum Creek, Pleasant township, this county, and was born May 13, 1843, a daughter of James Mayberry and wife. She grew to womanhood on her father's farm and, at the present time, resides in Lima, Ohio. Four children were born to their union, James of Sugar Creek township, this county; William, who lives in Michigan; Thomas Milton, and Emma, deceased. The father was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Columbus Grove, and a supporter of the Democratic party, yet was not active in politics. He was brought up in the faith of the Christian church, but was not closely affiliated with church affairs.

After spending his boyhood days in the town of Columbus Grove with his father, and later moving with him to the farm in Sugar Creek township, where he remained until his father's death, Thomas Milton Teegardin was married on December 14, 1898, to Cora Keirns, daughter of Samuel H. and Emma Jane (Deffenbaugh) Keirns, the life history of whom will be found elsewhere in this history under the name of Samuel H. Keirns. A short time after his marriage, Thomas M., moved to the farm of his father-in-law and remained there until he bought his present fifty-five acre farm in Pleasant

township. On this farm, besides the raising of a general line of crops, he gives special attention to thoroughbred Ohio Improved Chester hogs, and also feeds a large herd of dairy cattle.

To Thomas Milton Teegardin and wife have been born four children, Emil O. Roy, Samuel and Plummer, all of whom reside with their parents. Mr. Teegardin is an active member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge No. 376, of Columbus Grove, he is a consistent supporter of the Democratic party, and the family belong to the Christian church, where the father is one of the trustees and a teacher of the boy's Sunday school class; Mrs. Teegardin also teaches the young women's class. Personally, he is well regarded by all his friends and acquaintances, is a good christian gentleman of genial, unassuming disposition. In a business way he is looked upon as a man of splendid judgment in live stock and is ever alert to lend his support to progressive ideas and modern methods.

WILLIAM BASINGER.

In a brief sketch of any living citizen it is difficult to do him exact and impartial justice. Not so much, however, for the lack of space or words to set forth the familiar and passing events of his personal history, as for want of the perfect and rounded conception of his whole life, which grows, develops and ripens like fruit to disclose its truest and best flavor only when it is mellowed by time. Daily contact with a man, so familiarizes us with his virtues that we ordinarily overlook them and commonly underestimate their possessor. It is not often that true honor, public or private, that honor which is a tribute of cordial respect and esteem, comes to a man without basis in character and deeds. During a residence of nearly fifty years in Putnam county, the people have had an opportunity to know what manner of man William Basinger is. The testimony is ample that he is a good citizen in the full sense of the term and worthy of honor and public trust. Mr. Basinger is a man who has risen to a place of prominence in his community and who, in every way, has proved himself a worthy son of a conscientious, God-fearing father.

William Basinger was born on March 9, 1868, in Riley township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Christian and Regina (Lugibihl) Basinger, the latter of whom has been dead for many years. Christian Basinger, who is now living retired, is a man of sterling character and a man



WILLIAM BASINGER.

greatly esteemed by all with whom his busy life has brought him in contact. He resigned the presidency of the Peoples Bank at Columbus Grove at the annual election held in 1914, on account of ill health. He was compelled to seek relief by a trip West, to the famous Mayo Brothers Institute, at Rochester, Minnesota. An operation here relieved him and he is now on the way to recovery.

Christian Basinger is one of the leading citizens, and has been one of the leading farmers in Putnam county. He was born in Riley township, Putnam county, on March 12, 1846, the son of John D. and Elizabeth (Moser) Basinger, both natives of Switzerland. John D. Basinger was of French descent and came to the United States when eighteen years of age with his mother, his father having died in the old country. They settled first in Wayne county, but, subsequently, came on to Putnam county. Elizabeth Moser was twelve years old when she came to this country. They were farmers in Riley township. John D. Basinger died in 1885, at the age of sixty-nine years. Christian Basinger was one of seven children born to his parents, John D., who lives at Lafayette, Indiana; Mrs. Elizabeth Leibe, who lives at Columbus Grove; Mary, the wife of Peter Zeurcher, of Kansas City; Magdalena, who died shortly after her marriage; John Kratz and Peter, who died young.

Christian Basinger was reared in Riley township and there received his education. At the age of twenty-nine years, he was married to Regina Lugibihl, who was born in Allen county, and who was the daughter of David Lugibihl. She died in the fall of 1871, leaving two sons, William, whose history has been previously given, and Levi, the assistant cashier of the Peoples Bank, of Columbus Grove. Mr. Basinger was married, the second time, in June, 1872, to Barbara Bucher, who was born in Allen county, and was the daughter of Christian Bucher. Three children were born to this union, but only one is now living, Susie Basinger, who married Frank Lugibihl and lives with her father in Columbus Grove.

Christian Basinger is a large landowner in Putnam county. In 1893 he erected a handsome home on his farm situated on the Pandora road, which was destroyed by fire in March, 1905. Later he moved to Columbus Grove, in the fall of 1905, where he built a modern residence in 1906. In this residence he has resided since that time.

Christian Basinger began dealing in Percheron and French coach horses as early as 1885 and made at least four different trips to Europe to select his stock for importation. He became connected with the Peoples Bank, in

1892, and has been identified with that bank until the present time, for the most part as president. Christian Basinger is a member of St. John's Mennonite church. He is a valuable citizen of Putnam county and, in every respect, entitled to the esteem and confidence bestowed upon him during his declining years.

William Basinger spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Riley township. When William was eight years old, he came with his father to Pleasant township, Putnam county, where the latter purchased a farm of eighty acres from John Marvin. Subsequently, William Basinger operated this farm with his father until he was of age or until about 1891. He then farmed under a partnership arrangement until his father gave up farming and moved to Columbus Grove. William Basinger then took an active interest in the farming of eighty acres, which was deeded to him by his father, and to which he subsequently added two forty-acre tracts, making a total of one hundred and sixty acres. Mr. Basinger also farms one hundred and sixty acres belonging to his father, lying across from and adjoining his own farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He has been a stock raiser of wide reputation. Mr. Basinger made a trip to Europe in 1890, in the interest of his business as a breeder of Percherons and French coach horses. In connection with his father, William Basinger has been one of the leading horse breeders in this section of Ohio. He is not extensively engaged in the breeding business at this time, but has turned his attention more to general farming and operating his splendid farm in Pleasant township. Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Basinger is no longer actively engaged in the breeding business, he keeps a considerable number of splendid draft horses and is a splendid judge of their finest points. He has been an extensive exhibitor at fairs, but has not followed this for the past twelve years. He owns a fine home, large roomy barns and has made many improvements upon his land. All of the buildings are thoroughly modern and there are plenty of them for any and all purposes. In fact, Mr. Basinger has one of the finest country homes in Putnam county.

William Basinger was married on June 14, 1893, to Minnie E. Risser, the daughter of David and Margaret (Krohn) Risser. She was born April 27, 1873, in Riley township. Her parental history is contained elsewhere in this volume in the sketch of David Risser. To William and Minnie E. (Risser) Basinger, six children have been born, Leonard, on March 22, 1894, who is a student at the college of agriculture, University of Ohio; Marguerite Barbara, May 30, 1895, died on February 25, 1901; George Risser, December 7, 1899; Mildred Opal, October 26, 1901; Alice Evelyn, February 12,

1906, and Helen Beatrice, March 3, 1909. The last four children all live at home.

Mr. Basinger is not a member of any lodge. With the exception of school director, he has held no public offices. Mr. and Mrs. Basinger and family are members of the First Presbyterian church of Columbus Grove and are regular attendants at its services.

In the fall of 1914, Mr. Basinger was elected president of the Peoples Bank, at Columbus Grove, to succeed his father, who had served in that office for many years. William Basinger is a likeable man of splendid habits and sterling character. He is one of the leading citizens of Putnam county, kind and sociable and thoroughly domestic in his temperament. He takes great pride in his home, family and farm, and is a man widely known. He is naturally a power in his community, not only for progress generally, but his example as a scientific, successful farmer has had much to do with the growth and prosperity of Putnam county.

GUY IRWIN.

Guy Irwin, a prosperous and enterprising young farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, is widely known throughout this county and is one of its honored citizens. His well-directed efforts in the practical affairs of life, his capable management of his business interests and his sound judgment have enabled him to add to the property he inherited from his father. His life demonstrates what may be accomplished by any man of energy and ambition who is not afraid to work and who has the perseverance to continue his labors in the face of disasters and discouragements. In all of the relations of life, Mr. Irwin has commanded the confidence and respect of those with whom he has been brought in contact. A biographical history of this locality would not be complete without a record of his career.

Guy Irwin was born on January 14, 1882, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Benjamin Franklin and Lydia (Hayden) Irwin, the former of whom was born on November 30, 1821, in Fairfield county, Ohio, and died, May 22, 1902. The latter was the second wife of Benjamin F. Irwin, and was born on May 7, 1839, in Stark county, Ohio. She is still living on the old homestead place. Benjamin F. Irwin was the son of Josiah Kennedy and Catherine (Bartman) Irwin. Mrs. Lydia Irwin is the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Bothers) Irwin.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, the father of Guy, was first married to Sarah J. Lease, who was born on April 26, 1836, and died on June 28, 1861. Guy Irwin is a son by the second marriage which took place on March 28, 1864, and he is the youngest of nine children born to this marriage. The others were Martha Emma, March 9, 1865; Clement L., July 26, 1866; died on September 19, 1866; George Thurman, September 20, 1867, died on January 30, 1897; Benjamin F., Jr., August 25, 1869; Nathaniel K., January 20, 1871; James A., March 13, 1874; Charles P., December 9, 1876; Kemerer L., May 16, 1879.

Guy Irwin grew up on the homestead farm in Pleasant township and remained there until his marriage. He was educated in the public schools of Putnam county and, during the time he was attending school, performed the labors customary to this section of the country.

Mr. Irwin was married August 26, 1908, to Ruhama Anderson, the daughter of Evan Thomas and Loretta (Vandermark) Anderson. Evan Thomas Anderson was the son of Henry and Ann Anderson and was born on January 6, 1849, in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county. He married Loretta Elizabeth Vandermark, January 8, 1880, and to this union were born nine children, six sons and three daughters. All of these children are now living, with the exception of Alfred, who died, January 21, 1911. Evan Thomas Anderson, during his life, was a member of Maple Grove Christian church with which he united in May, 1911. He was a deacon in the church at the time of his death, January 1, 1915, when he was sixty-five years, seven months and twenty-five days old. At the time of Mr. Anderson's death, he left a wife, five sons, three daughters, sixteen grandchildren, one sister and many relatives and friends.

To Guy and Ruhama (Anderson) Irwin, two sons, Kenneth and Russell, have been born. They are living at home with their parents.

After Mr. Irwin's marriage, he and his wife moved to his present farm, in section 31, of Pleasant township, consisting of eighty acres, sixty acres of which were deeded to Mr. Irwin by his father and twenty acres of which he has added himself. Mr. Irwin follows general farming. In 1907, he built a modern barn, thirty-six by sixty-four feet, and the year following built a splendid residence in which he now lives.

The Irwin family are all members of the Maple Grove Christian church. Mr. Irwin and his wife's father united with this church in 1911. A Democrat in political views, Mr. Irwin is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows No. 464, at Columbus Grove. He is a quiet man, rather slow to make statements, yet progressive, open and above board. He takes a pride

in his farm and home and is an excellent farmer. His success has come to him largely as a consequence of his industry, his good management and his wise economy. He is a representative citizen of Pleasant township and entitled to representation in this volume as such.

GEORGE B. SYFERT.

Conspicuous among the public-spirited men and representative citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is the well-known gentleman whose name forms the caption of this article. He has made his influence felt for good in his community in Sugar Creek township, being a man of sterling worth, whose life has been closely interwoven with the history of the community in which he resides, and whose efforts have always been for the material advancement of the same, as well as for the social and moral welfare of his fellow men. And the well-regulated life he has led has thereby gained the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens, and entitles him to representation in a biographical work of the scope intended in the present volume.

George B. Syfert was born in Union township on February 8, 1864. He is a son of Abraham and Permelia (Clevenger) Syfert. Abraham Syfert was a native of Ohio, born in Fairfield county, in 1835, and died at the home of his son, George B. Syfert, in October, 1909. He was a son of Andrew and Rebecca (Guile) Syfert, both of whom were natives of Virginia, who came to Ohio in early days and settled in Fairfield county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. It was on the old homestead, which they established about nine miles southwest of Lancaster, that George's father grew to manhood. He was one of six children, three sons and three daughters, and remained at home until about twenty-one years of age, when he came to Putnam county, locating in Union township, and he was employed on a farm until his marriage. She to whom he was united, Permelia Clevenger, was born in Union township, in 1838, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Rimer) Clevenger, who were the parents of twelve children, six sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to maturity. After his marriage, Mr. Syfert started in to farm on his own account in Sugar Creek township, locating on a farm belonging to an uncle of his wife. He finally settled on a farm of forty acres, located one and three-quarter miles south of Kalida, on the banks of Hog creek, where he engaged in farming for several years, and later, he moved to other locations in Union township. Again

he located just across the line, in Sugar Creek township, and his last residence was on a farm four miles south of Kalida. After giving up his home, he resided with his son, George B., at whose home his death occurred in October, 1909. His wife, Permelia had died on April 6, 1891, when they were living south of Kalida. Abraham and Permelia Syfert had thirteen children, eight of whom survive them: Eliza; Andrew; George B., the immediate subject of this sketch; Catherine; Eleva; Matilda; John C., deceased, and Louis.

George B. Syfert was reared on his paternal homestead, south of Kalida, and attended the district schools in that locality. He remained under the paternal roof until twenty-two years of age, and then moved three miles south of Kalida, locating on a farm of forty acres. This land was practically all covered by timber, only about eight acres being cleared, but Mr. Syfert boldly entered upon the task of subduing the land and creating a good farm. He first built a four-room house and a plank barn, the latter being later destroyed by fire, which was replaced with a log barn. Eventually, Mr. Syfert succeeded in getting his farm nearly all cleared, and after that, bought ten acres additional. After residing here about fourteen years, he sold out and bought sixty-eight and one-half acres of the old Guffy farm, to which he has since added eighty-two and one-half acres, making his total possessions now one hundred and fifty acres. He made some splendid and permanent improvements on his property, including a nine-room residence, a large and commodious barn and other necessary farm buildings. He carries on general farming operations, in addition to which he has for thirty-six years operated a thrashing machine, and in which work he has gained a wide reputation. He is up-to-date in his ideas, energetic in his methods, and numbered among the progressive and prominent farmers of his locality.

On November 11, 1886, Mr. Syfert was married to Margaret A. McClane, who was born in Sugar Creek township on April 18, 1863, the daughter of William F. and Elizabeth (Guffy) McClane. William F. McClane was born in Franklin county, Ohio, near Columbus, on October 24, 1828, the son of George and Margaret (Fleming) McClane. Mrs. Syfert's mother, Elizabeth Guffy, was the daughter of John Guffy and wife, and was born in Franklin county, on February 20, 1830, her death occurring on the old McClane homestead on March 31, 1912. She came to Sugar Creek township with her parents, when but a baby. Her father entered three hundred and twenty acres of land from the government. Here John Guffy built a log cabin on the place which is now occupied by George B. Syfert, and it was here that he created a home for his family in the midst of what was then a vast

wilderness. He passed through all the privations and hardships of the early pioneer period, and was numbered among those who accomplished much for the advancement of the locality. To John Guffy and wife were born eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, one of whom was Elizabeth, who, at the age of twenty-five years, became the wife of William F. McClane. After their marriage they lived at her home for about two years, and then moved to the old McClane homestead, where they have lived ever since. To William F. and Elizabeth (Guffy) McClane were born four children, George; John James; Margaret A., wife of the subject of this sketch, and Elnora Jane, all of whom are living.

To George B. and Margaret A. (McClane) Syfert have been born four children: Ellie, on September 1, 1887, is the wife of W. W. Woods, and they have three children, Beulah, Ewing and Tressa; Myrtle, April 30, 1890, became the wife of Fred Rimer, and they have two children, La Verne and Raymond; William, April 3, 1893, and Oliver, August 28, 1898.

Mr. Syfert is an ardent Democrat, and has served as township supervisor and is a member of the school of Union township. He and his wife are members of the Ottawa River Christian church, to the interests of which they are devoted. Straightforward and unassuming, genial and obliging, Mr. Syfert enjoys the good-will and respect of a wide circle of friends throughout his section of the county.

JOSEPH LOSH.

The true measure of individual success is determined by what one has accomplished. An enumeration of those men who have succeeded in their chosen vocation in Putnam county and who, at the same time, are impressing their personalities upon the community where they live, men who are conferring honor upon the county in which they reside, would be incomplete were there a failure to mention specifically Joseph Losh, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. The splendid success which has come to him has been the direct result of his careful application to his vocation and his upright and honorable life has gained him an enviable reputation in the community. He has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. The best business methods have been in strict conformity with the highest standards of commercial life. He has always taken an intelligent interest in the civic, educational and religious life of the community

and has earned the high regard of all his neighbors and of all the people of Pleasant township, among whom he is well known.

Joseph Losh was born on November 26, 1859, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, on the farm where he now lives. He is the son of Abraham and Sarah Ann (Frost) Losh, the former of whom was born on July 17, 1817, in Licking county, was the son of Jacob and Mary Elizabeth (Schuler) Losh. Jacob Losh was a native of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, and immigrated to Licking county, in 1817, where he died. His son, Abraham, came to Putnam county, in 1850, settling on a farm near Gilboa. He lived here for one year and then moved back to Licking county. In 1852 he returned to Pleasant township, where he purchased eighty acres of land, adding forty acres to this before his death. It was almost an unbroken forest. He built a log cabin here which still remains on Joseph Losh's farm. He farmed until his death, October 24, 1892, at which time he was seventy-six years old. He was a stanch member of the Lutheran church, but was not a member of the church in Putnam county. He exercised his right of franchise by voting the Democratic ticket. His wife, who was Sarah Ann Frost, before her marriage, was born on June 20, 1820, in Licking county, and died, May 31, 1880. She was married to Abraham Losh on March 20, 1841. She was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann (Schevalier) Frost, natives of Massachusetts, who came to Ohio in an early day, and who, without a doubt, are descendants of the Puritan pioneers.

To Abraham and Sarah Ann Losh, eight children were born, Mary A., Henry, Hannah, who married John Geib, Joseph, the subject of this sketch, and four who died in infancy.

Joseph Losh grew to manhood on the farm where he now lives. He received his education in the township schools and in the Fostoria Academy, at Fostoria, Ohio. Subsequently, he attended the theological school at Stanfordville, New York, and remained in college until time for his ordination, but he was never ordained. He was a local preacher in the United Brethren church and a student preacher in Putnam county for some time. In 1888 he came back to the farm.

Joseph Losh was married on January 1, 1890, to Emma Bunte, the daughter of Jacob and Josephine (Hedrick) Bunte. Jacob Bunte was a native of Prussia, as was also his wife. They were married in Germany and came to America with a family of five children, settling first at Cincinnati, where they remained for a short time. He was a practicing physician and worked during the cholera epidemic of 1845. He taught a school in Cincinnati, and was organist in the Catholic church there. He came to Delphos,

Ohio, in 1846 and taught school during the pioneer days, when wild hogs ran at large. He was the first teacher in the parochial schools at that place. From Delphos, he moved back to Cincinnati, thence to Toledo, from there to Albany, New York, and from Albany to Putnam county, Ohio. He practiced medicine at Delphos and was also organist in the Catholic church there. During a part of his life, he was engaged in the manufacture of pianos. Jacob Bunte settled in Putnam county, when Mrs. Losh was five years old. After acquiring a farm of eighty acres, he farmed until his death, at the age of seventy-eight. His brother was one of the early settlers of Glandorf and, at one time, was a large landholder in and about Glandorf. He was known as Doctor Bunte. He came to Glandorf with Professor Horstman, the founder of Glandorf, Putnam county.

Jacob Bunte and wife were the parents of twelve children, Matilda, Daniel, Amelia, Fredericka, John, Frederick, Joseph, Sophia, Josephine, Adeline, Anna and Emma. Joseph, Josephine, Adeline and Mrs. Losh are the only ones now living. Mrs. Jacob Bunte was born on October 17, 1816, and died at the age of eighty-two. Her daughter, Mrs. Losh was born at Albany, New York, on May 17, 1881.

To Joseph and Emma (Bunte) Losh, eight children have been born, Abraham J., of Columbus Grove, who married Mary Kramer and has one son, Joseph, who operates the Columbus Grove laundry; Lewis, who married Anna Wort and helps his father on the home farm; Mabel, who married Lawrence Burkhart, a clerk in the War Department, at Washington, D. C.; Sarah, married Joseph Kastner, lives in Dayton, Ohio; Sol H., and Stella, all at home; Leona died in infancy and Francis is living.

Joseph Losh follows general farming and has made extensive improvements on his farm. He is enterprising and has been successful in everything that he has undertaken.

Republican in politics, Mr. Losh is independent in state and national affairs. He is now a member of the Presbyterian church at Columbus Grove. At one time he was a staunch Catholic and he organized the movement to secure the first Catholic church at Columbus Grove; also secured the services of the noted missionary, Father Charles Martus, as a missionary who held two missions for non-Catholics in Columbus Grove, which culminated in the establishment of the present church. Mrs. Losh and children belong to the Catholic church at Columbus Grove. Mr. Losh is widely acquainted in Putnam county. He has a splendid home and a fertile farm and is highly respected by his neighbors and honored by all with whom he has come into contact, and has one of the most diversified libraries in the county.

BERNARD JOSEPH MEYER.

Germany is among those nations that have contributed a large quota of their population to that of the United States. No country has furnished better citizens. Hundreds of thousands of men and women, with the best blood of that country coursing through their veins, have come to our shores, and have become the most substantial citizens of the various localities in which they settled. Fortunate, indeed, is the community which has German descendants numbered among its citizens, for wherever they are found they are always numbered among its most substantial citizens. The habits of thrift and frugality which they inherit from their ancestors make them valuable residents to the community at large. No one has ever heard of a German dying in the poorhouse. The examples set by the thrifty German citizens have been very beneficial, not only to our native Americans, but to the citizens of all other countries as well. Ohio has been fortunate in attracting to her fertile soil many thousands of good Germans, and among the prominent families of Putnam county of German descent is the Meyer family. One of the representative citizens of Putnam county, who is a scion of a thrifty German family, is Bernard Joseph Meyer.

Bernard J. Meyer was born on June 12, 1863, at Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of Gerhard and Anna (Moening) Meyer, whose life histories are found elsewhere in this volume. These histories give the Meyers family history.

Growing up on a farm near Glandorf, Bernard J. Meyer was married in 1886 to Mary Elizabeth Ellerbrock, who was born in Glandorf and who is the daughter of John Ferdinand and Theresa (Klemen) Ellerbrock. The Ellerbrock family history is also found elsewhere in this volume.

In the spring of 1886 Mr. Meyer purchased a farm in the southeastern part of Liberty township, and he has lived upon this farm since his marriage. He began with eighty acres that were largely covered with swamps, and, aside from being mostly cleared of timber, it was almost totally unimproved. Mr. Meyer has erected an excellent house, a large substantial barn with a tile roof and a number of other substantial outbuildings. He now owns one hundred and fifty-nine acres of fertile land, which produces abundant harvests. Bernard J. Meyer is a farmer and thresherman and is well known in Liberty township as an enterprising citizen and a successful business man.

To Bernard J. and Mary Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Meyer have been born four children: John Ferdinand, Catherine Wilhelmina, Catherine Agnes and

Joseph Henry. John Ferdinand married Anna Susanna Gores, the daughter of George Gores, and lives on his father's farm. They have one daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Catherine Wilhelmina is the wife of George Steffen and lives east of Leipsic. They have one daughter, Eulalia Marie. Catherine Agnes and Joseph Henry are unmarried and live at home.

The Meyer family have always been members of the Catholic church and contribute liberally to the support of this faith. Mr. Meyer is a representative citizen and a successful farmer. He is interested in all public movements and does not hesitate to devote his time and money to worthy public enterprises.

JOHN B. NORMAN.

Among the representative citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, is John B. Norman, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township. Mr. Norman has impressed his personality upon the community where he lives and is honored and respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Moreover, Mr. Norman has made a creditable success of his life's vocation and he, likewise, takes an active interest in public questions, adding to the wisdom of the community by his counsels and helpfulness. On both sides of his family, he is descended from good old English stock, men and women who left their native land to find homes in the new country. By marriage, Mr. Norman is identified with the Beam family, one of the best-known and most highly respected in Putnam county.

John B. Norman was born on February 17, 1859, in England and is the son of Samuel and Sarah (Berridge) Norman, the former of whom was born at Uppingham, Rutland, England, on August 7, 1833, and the latter of whom was born at the same place.

Samuel Norman was the son of Samuel, Sr., and Deborah (Pickering) Norman. Samuel Norman, Jr., left England in 1860 and came to Huron county, Ohio, where he worked by the month for one man during a period of seven years. He lived in Huron county, altogether, for fourteen years and then came to Putnam county, in 1874, settling in Union township, on a farm of forty acres. He operated this farm for thirty years and then sold it and removed to Pleasant township, Putnam county, where he bought six and one-half acres and farmed it until his retirement a few years ago. He now lives near his son, John B. Samuel Norman, Jr., was married in England, December 2, 1856, and was the father of two children in that country, Mrs.

Elizabeth Jane Buckingham, born in 1857; and John B. Samuel Norman, Jr., is a Republican and a member of the church of Latter-Day Saints. When he came to America, it took him twenty-two days on a sailing vessel. He landed in New York on Thanksgiving day and came overland to Huron county. Samuel Norman, Sr., came from England to America ahead of his son, in 1856, and settled in Huron county, where he farmed twenty acres. He came to Putnam county in 1863 and settled in Union township, farming twenty acres there until his death, January 16, 1883, at the age of eighty-two. His wife, who was Deborah Pickering before her marriage, was a native of England also. She died in November, 1890, aged ninety-two years. She was the mother of five children, Samuel, Jr., Ann, Jane, John and Eliza, all of whom are deceased except Samuel, Jr. Mrs. Sarah Norman, who, before her marriage, was Sarah Berridge, was the daughter of Michael and Alice (Wiles) Berridge, both of whom were natives of England, the former of Northamptonshire and the latter of Keton, Rutland. They never came to America. Mrs. Sarah Norman is still living.

John B. Norman spent his boyhood days in Huron county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county when fourteen years of age with his father, living with him until he was married. He first operated a one-hundred-acre farm in Union township. He began with forty acres which he farmed for about six years and then purchased the John Buckingham farm of forty acres, after which, he bought twenty acres from his grandfather, but, on March 1, 1901, he came to Pleasant township and located on his present farm of eighty-seven and one-half acres. He follows general farming and is still active in this vocation.

Mr. Norman was married on November 27, 1884, to Lydian Ann Beam, the daughter of Amos and Mary (Burkhart) Beam, the former of whom was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on June 27, 1823. Amos Beam was the son of Jacob and Rosa (Carnes) Beam. Jacob Beam was born on April 13, 1796, and his father was Peter Beam, who was born on December 5, 1732. The complete family history of the Beams is contained elsewhere in this volume. Amos Beam died, January 29, 1900, at the age of seventy-six.

To John B. and Lydian Ann (Beam) Norman, six children have been born, Nellie, who married Harmon Allen, a grocer, of Lima, Ohio, and has three children, Alice L., Norman C. and Ruth Olive; Rosa, who married Pearl Bowers, of Lima, Ohio, who is an engineer on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad; Sarah, who married Ray Sakemiller, a farmer of Sugar Creek township; Zelma, who married Charles Stover, of Ottawa, and has one son, Norman; Mary and Ruth, both of whom are at home.

John B. Norman is a quiet, unassuming man with a clean record. He is a good, substantial farmer, and in his community is well liked. His habits are thoroughly domestic and he is a kind and loving father, as well as a good provider. Throughout his life he has been a strong and ardent advocate of sound principles in farming and follows these principles himself. He owns a splendid home and a valuable, well-located farm. Fraternally, Mr. Norman is a member of Columbus Grove Lodge, No. 376, Knights of Pythias. He has always considered himself a staunch Republican, but of late years has been more or less independent in his voting.

HENRY KAUFMANN.

That tiller of the soil who knows the significance of the opportunities presented to him, and who takes pride in grasping those opportunities and developing them to the credit of himself and the commonwealth, is indeed fortunate. Such a man is Henry Kaufman and he is that type of man of whom a community might justly be proud.

Henry Kaumann's father was born in March, 1823, in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in 1860, first locating at Cleveland. Henry was born in the same town as was his father, on November 25, 1850, his parents being John and Louisa (Lentz) Kaufmann, who were also the parents of Louis and William, both deceased; Mrs. Philomena Lammers, of Liberty township, Putnam county; Frederick, who is deceased; a child who died at the age of four, and Joseph, deceased.

After locating in Cleveland, John Kaufmann worked as a miller, which trade he learned in Prussia and had been following there some time before coming to America. The new land was strange and a hardship was worked on him because of his inability to speak the new tongue. After a short stay at Cleveland, he went on to Tiffin, where he stayed six months and then came to Glandorf, Putnam county, where he rented a grist-mill which he operated for three years. Then he bought the farm where Henry now lives, and which was then uncleared. Soon after this he purchased the Eminger grist-mill, of Ottawa, which he ran for three years and then sold out when he returned to his farm, where he died. John Kaufmann was a Democrat, but not a politician. He was an active member of the Holy Family Catholic church of New Cleveland, Putnam county, and was well known and highly respected as a loyal neighbor and liberal business man. His wife, also a native of Prussia, was born in 1818, and died on the homestead in March, 1905, aged

eighty-seven years. She was a loving wife, a devoted mother, and took proper pride in her home and its affairs.

The entire life of Henry Kauffmann has been lived on the home farm, which he inherited at his father's death. This farm formerly had a log house and barn, but modern buildings have been since erected by Mr. Kaufmann, who also owns three eighty-acre tracts in Ottawa township and one forty-acre tract in Pleasant township, comprising two hundred and eighty acres in all. The farm in Pleasant township is being farmed by his sons. The land is given over to general farming, live stock and grain being the principal products.

The marriage of Mr. Kaufmann and Theresa Niese took place on June 12, 1877, the wife being the daughter of John Henry Niese and Anna Catharine (Schierloh) Niese. To Mr. and Mrs. Kaufmann the following children were born: Mary married John Lammers and of their nine children five are living, namely: Loretta, Philip, Veronica, Stella and Frederick; Edward, who married Veronica Schroeder, is the father of four children, of whom Arthur, Edwin and Leonard are living; William died in infancy; Joseph married Agnes Kuhlmann and tills a farm in Ottawa township; Frederick, who married Emma Schroeder, farms in Pleasant township and has one child, Albert; Adolph and Stella live at home.

Mrs. Kaufmann's father, John Niese, came from Munster, Prussia, to Putnam county, about 1840, where he settled on land near Glandorf, where he cleared and improved fifty acres. He was born in 1809, and died in 1884, aged seventy-five years. His wife was born in Glandorf, Germany, about 1822, and died on August 5, 1905. The two were hard-working people and were successful in life. Their deaths on the homestead were mourned by the many to whom they had endeared themselves. They were the parents of thirteen children, as follow: William died in 1910; Rosa died in infancy; Mary died at the age of twenty-one; Henry; Mrs. Elizabeth Rosenthal, of Kalida; Barney and John; Mrs. Catherine Inkrot, of Liberty township, and Frank, are twins; Laura died in infancy; Theresa, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Bernadina lives in Tiffin, and Anna, deceased.

Jovial and good-natured, Mr. Kaufmann is accordingly liked by his neighbors. He belongs to no fraternal orders; his political preferences are with the Democratic party; in religion a member of the Holy Family Catholic church at New Cleveland, as are his family, with the exception of two sons, Edward and Frederick, who belong to the same denomination at Ottawa. Mr. Kaufmann's reputation as a farmer and a good father gives him a title clear to stand in the company of the select of his county. Mr. Kaufmann is

practically retired from farming, but is still active in body and mind. His residence is a good brick house, one of the best in the community. Mrs. Kaufmann is a kind woman, of motherly disposition and has contributed much to her husband's success. Mr. Kaufmann is a member of the building committee to supervise the erection of the new Catholic church at New Cleveland and is one of the most active members of this committee. The new church is to cost between thirty thousand and forty thousand dollars, and the task of the building committee is a very important one.

REV. EDWARD LAYPORT, D. D.

Rev. Edward Layport, D. D., was born on a farm near Laceyville, Harrison county, Ohio, on January 24, 1850.

His paternal ancestors were of French Huguenot stock, the name originally being La Porte, but was anglicized as a rebuke to French infidelity and religious intolerance. They emigrated from Alsace-Lorraine to the state of Maryland prior to the Declaration of Independence, and came to Ohio in 1805, securing an entry of land from the government by letters patent. George Layport, the great-grandfather, and five of his sons were engaged in the early Indian wars. One of the sons, Thomas, was killed by Indians. Having been sent home to see how his mother fared, the Indians surprised them, burning the cabin and killed Thomas, while his mother and her younger child escaped in the forest.

The maternal ancestry of Rev. Edward Layport were Scotch-Irish from County Antrim, Ireland. His mother's name was Loughridge, and religiously they were Covenanters.

Reverend Layport was the eldest son of William and Jane Layport. He was educated in a country school, studied science in Scio College and the classics in Franklin College, graduating, July 4, 1876. He studied theology at Lane Seminary, Cincinnati, graduating on May 8, 1879. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry on June 3, 1879 and installed pastor over the Bluffton and Rockport Presbyterian churches, in Lima Presbytery.

On October 16, 1879, Rev. Edward Layport was united in marriage to Lillie May Tripp, of Carrollton. One daughter, Mrs. F. M. Belden, Jr., of Akron, Ohio, was born to this marriage.

Reverend Layport held pastorates in Loudonville and Nashville. He was pastor at Columbus Grove from 1884 to 1889; of the First Presbyterian church, of Akron, for nine years, from 1889 to 1898; at Loveland, from 1898

to 1903 and at Van Buren, from 1903 to 1906. In June, 1903, Franklin College conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In October, 1906, owing to impaired health, Reverend Layport moved on a farm near Columbus Grove, where he has since resided. For three years he acted as missionary superintendent of Lima Presbytery. He then supplied the Welsh Presbyterian church of Sugar Creek and, later, has had charge of the Leipsic Presbyterian church.

In the second year of his pastorate at Akron, Reverend Layport's wife died on May 10, 1891. On August 21, 1895, he married Laura Adella Trumbo, of Rockport, a daughter of Enoch and Martha Trumbo. One son, Edward Trumbo, was born to them, on December 10, 1898. He is now a student in the Columbus Grove high school.

Mrs. Laura (Trumbo) Layport is an alumnus of Leland Stanford, Jr., University at Palo Alto, California, and is prominent in missionary and temperance work. She is president of the Putnam County Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and has seen the number of unions double during her administration. She is also an ardent advocate of woman's suffrage.

Reverend Layport, politically, is no partisan, voting for the man instead of the party. He believes fully in our public school system and also in free speech and a free press. He takes an active interest in farm life, making a specialty of pure bred Rhode Island Red chickens. The Ridgeway poultry farm, of which he is owner and manager, has a wide reputation.

JOHN HENRY UTENDORF.

Being numbered among the life-long residents of the locality in which he lives and having had a fair start and a fixed determination to succeed, John Henry Utendorf is worthy of the praise and admiration of his fellow men, because of his careful management, continued industry and set purpose and the fact that he has acquired a fair competence of this world's goods. His career has been one of honorable methods in all his dealings with those with whom he came in contact, and a history of the people of Putnam county, who are worthy of mention in a work of this nature, would be incomplete without his record.

John Henry Utendorf was born in Ottawa township, this county, on July 7, 1876, and is the son of Joseph and Catherine (Shulte) Utendorf, whose life history appears elsewhere in this work under the name of Benjamin R. Utendorf.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. UTENDORF.

Remaining under the parental roof and attending the township schools during his early days John Henry Utendorf assisted his father until about the time of his marriage, on November 25, 1903, to Catherine Hueve, a daughter of Joseph Bernard and Regina Gertrude (Klaform) Hueve. Her father was a native of Hanover, Germany, where he was born in 1822, and left that country, in his seventeenth year, accompanied by his parents, who came to the United States and settled on a farm some distance west of the town of Glandorf, Putnam county. This farm was probably land entered from the government and his father farmed it for some time. The son, Joseph, left his parents when he arrived at the age of twenty-eight and went to work as an employee of the Miami & Erie Canal Company, which was constructing a canal through this region at that time, and, at which he continued to work for some time. After his marriage, in the year 1852, he returned to his father's home and remained with him for three years, then struck out again for himself and purchased eighty acres of land in Pleasant township, and for which he paid six dollars per acre. It was all timbered with virgin trees and here it was that he began his career. His first meal, in this section, was eaten on an old tree stump and after cutting the required amount of timber he erected a log house for himself and wife, also a log barn, and, eventually, cleared the entire eighty acres. It was here that he suffered the untold hardships of pioneer days and many a time he was known to be at work on this place without boots or mittens to protect him from the elements of the weather. At later dates he added two other tracts, the first consisted of forty acres and another of forty-six, both in Pleasant township, and heavily timbered. It was on this place that he died, May 16, 1898, in the seventy-fourth year of his age, after living a most useful christian life. His wife and the mother of our subject's wife, was also a native of Germany, where she was born on April 12, 1834, and died in this country, November 3, 1893. She came to this country with her parents when she was but two years of age. Their first experience after arriving in this new land was sleeping in the timber the first night her parents settled on a place near the town of Glandorf. The mother died on this homestead farm, in Pleasant township, in the fifty-ninth year of her age. To their union were born thirteen children, as follow: Joseph, deceased in infancy; Mary (Mrs. Kleman), of Ottawa township; William; Anne (Mrs. Koenig), of Paulding county; Theresia (Mrs. Moening), of Ottawa; Magdaline (Mrs. Brinkman), of the state of Texas; Elizabeth and Bernadina, who died in infancy; Theodore, who lives on the old homestead in Pleasant township; Philomena Cath-

erine; Catherine Elizabeth, subject's wife; John, of Pleasant township, and Amelia, who died at the age of nineteen years.

After John H. Utendorf's marriage, and in the twenty-seventh year of his age, he removed to Pleasant township, where he started farming on his present place, which consists of one hundred and sixty acres. This land was cleared with the exception of about thirty-five acres still in timber. After doing considerable ditching and draining, fencing and otherwise getting things in shape, Mr. Utendorf has gotten this farm into first-class condition for general farming and he is able to produce the maximum results on a place of this size which is used for growing crops. His concentrated efforts and careful management show everywhere. The buildings have all been built new or remodeled and his residence is an imposing structure, modern in every respect. All in all, he has made a success in agricultural pursuits. To their union have been born five children as follow: Frances, Edward, Mary, John and Anna, all of whom live at home.

Mr. Utendorf is a Democrat, but does not take an active interest in politics. Fraternally, he is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio and the Knights of Columbus, both of which orders have lodges in the town of Ottawa, where he belongs. The entire family are members of the Catholic church at Ottawa, to which they contribute according to their means. Mr. Utendorf has the reputation of being a man of genial and kindly disposition, charitable, and always ready to lend a helping hand to the less fortunate who are plodding along life's highway. Personally, Mr. Utendorf is a man of unassuming ways and on account of his sterling qualities, honorable methods, and keen interest in all community affairs, is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

WILLIAM J. WISCHMEYER.

William J. Wischmeyer, of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, is one of the well-known farmers of Ottawa township and is of an old family. He owns a comfortable home and is possessed of the satisfaction of having reared a family of children to honorable and useful lives.

On May 14, 1860, Mr. Wischmeyer himself was born at New Cleveland, Putnam county, and is the son of Ferdinand Henry and Mary (Schmenk) Wischmeyer, the former of whom was a native of the Province of Hanover, Germany, born on June 24, 1836. A sister, Mary, who had married William Gulker, having come to this country, Ferdinand Henry Wischmeyer arrived

at Glandorf, Putnam county, where he was twelve years of age, and here as a lad he did any kind of work he was able to find. Educated at Cleveland for the priesthood in the Catholic church, but subsequently abandoning his ambition for the church, he taught school for several years in Greensburg township. Having been able to obtain a good education, he was considered one of the foremost teachers of his time. His wife, Mary Schmenk, to whom he was married in 1858, although born at Glandorf, Putnam county, was the daughter of Herman and Anna Schmenk, the former of whom came from Holland to America about 1840, first settling near New Cleveland, in Putnam county, and later moving to Avilla, Indiana, where he and his wife lived the remainder of their lives. They were not accompanied to Indiana by their daughter Mary, who remained at New Cleveland after the removal of her parents. After giving birth to four children, William J., the subject of this sketch, Mary, John and Ferdinand, Mrs. Mary (Schmenk) Wischmeyer died in November, 1865, on the farm near New Cleveland where she and her husband had settled after their marriage. Mr. Wischmeyer was married a second time, to Catherine Ballman, about three years after the death of his first wife, and had six children by the second marriage, as follow: Theodore, Henry, Joseph, Benjamin, Frank (deceased) and Bernard. The father of these children is now deceased, having died at New Cleveland, where his wife still survives him.

Born, educated and reared at New Cleveland, Putnam county, William J. Wischmeyer worked on his father's farm, in Ottawa township, where his brother now lives, and in 1887 was married, when he removed to Glandorf, where he remained for three years and then removed to Ottawa and lived there for three years. Mr. Wischmeyer bought a farm of sixty-four acres in Ottawa township, which land he has cleared, drained and improved generally. It is his present home and here he has surrounded himself with all the comforts of farm life.

Mr. Wischmeyer's wife, before her marriage, was Mary Hesseling, daughter of Henry and Anna (Hemma) Hesseling, and was born near Ft. Jennings, Putnam county, where her parents had settled on a farm. Subsequently, they moved to Delphos, in Allen county, where Mrs. Wischmeyer was educated, and where she grew up with the other children, Frederick, Herman, Charles, John, Joseph (deceased), William, Kate and Bernadina. The parents are both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Wischmeyer four children have been born, one of whom, an infant, is deceased. The living children are Louis Henry, John Edward and Anna Philomena.

Mr. and Mrs. Wischmeyer and family belong to Sts. Peter and Paul's

Catholic church at Ottawa. Mr. Wischmeyer is a Democrat. He is not only a capable farmer, but an enterprising citizen, and a man of pleasant and agreeable personality. He is strongly devoted to his family and to the immediate interests of the home. These he has guarded and protected with a zeal of a kind husband and loving father. Mr. Wischmeyer is well and favorably known in this community.

JOSEPH ZINK.

The spirit of a truly good man is almost as wonderful as his work. This spirit usually is characterized by disinterestedness, modesty and absolute fairness, qualities not only good in themselves, but which must remain as a proof of the importance of character in whatever labors one's hands find to do, in whatever work one is engaged to perform. Among the men who have exerted a large personal influence in the affairs of Putnam county and who have occupied positions of public trust and responsibility, few are better known than former Sheriff Joseph Zink. No history of Putnam county can be complete without mention of Joseph Zink and his services to the county, and it is with pleasure the biographer asks the reader's attention to the following brief sketch of his career in this county.

Joseph Zink is a native of Putnam county, having been born in the year 1859 on a farm in Palmer township, the son of William and Elizabeth Zink, both natives of Germany, who were married in Baden before coming to this country in 1849. For a time after their arrival in America, the Zinks lived in Columbus, William Zink being a skilled workman in the building trades, and he was engaged for some time on the construction of the Ohio state capitol. During this time he was offered eighty acres of land, a strip lying in what is now the heart of the city of Columbus, for eight hundred dollars, but when he was told he could get twice as much land in Putnam county for the same money, he declined the offer and proceeded to Putnam county, where, in 1850, he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Palmer township for four hundred dollars. He found much of this land practically worthless for farming purposes at that time, it being an apparently irreclaimable swamp, there being at that time no facilities at hand for drainage. He gave eighty acres of this land to his brother as an inducement for the latter to come and stay in the neighborhood with him and help him to reclaim his farm. After six months of struggle, with the apparently insuperable obstacles which lay in

the way of successful farming there, the brother departed and never came back to Putnam county, apparently having given the whole thing over as a bad job. The swampy condition of the land at that time was productive of much illness and the people thereabout constantly were subjected to fevers and ague, which made life miserable for many. It is interesting to note that the land which at that time was so comparatively worthless now is included among the best lands of the county, farms thereabout being well worth one hundred and fifty dollars an acre.

William Zink was not discouraged, however, by the difficulties which confronted him and set bravely to work to reclaim his place. For some time his chief income from the place was derived from the sale of hoop-poles, which he hauled to Ottawa, where he found a ready market. Unhappily, this plucky pioneer was not destined to see his farm brought to the state of productivity for which he had hoped or to see his family reared as he had hoped to rear them, for not long after he had settled there, William Zink became the victim of one of the cruelest crimes that ever occurred in Putnam county, and which occurred just after the close of the Civil War. One day, when going to Lima to make a payment on his farm, William Zink was waylaid at a point between Ottawa and Glandorf, and there was murdered and robbed. The murderer was captured and was charged with the deed in the first degree, but before the grand jury convened he broke jail at Kalida and made good his escape, and was never captured, nor seen or heard of in that section afterward. To add to the cruelty of this tragic situation, Mrs. Zink, the widow of the murdered man, died the next year, leaving seven children to the tender mercies of the world. The neighbors, however, were helpful and generous and the orphans quickly were placed in good homes in the neighborhood, several families responding gladly to this humane call.

In the distribution of these orphans it fell to the happy lot of Joseph Zink to be taken into the family of Mr. and Mrs. William Kohls, a generous young couple, who at that time had but one child of their own, and who lived south of Ottawa. In the home of the Kohls young Joseph received as careful rearing as though he were of the family born and grew up into strong, vigorous young manhood, tall, broad-shouldered and hardy. Here he remained until he was eighteen years of age, after which for one year he "worked out" in the neighborhood as a farm hand and then went to the state of Missouri, where he remained for a year, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and went to work on the farm of Herman Kohls, near Ft. Jennings, receiving for this service one hundred and fifty dollars for the year. While thus engaged, in the year 1882, Joseph Zink was united in marriage to Miss

Mary Facker, who was born on a farm near Ft. Jennings, the daughter of Caspar and Elizabeth (Ostendorf) Facker, the former of whom was a native of Hanover and the latter a native of Osnabruck, Germany.

Caspar Facker and Elizabeth Ostendorf came to America in their youth, both locating in Ohio. They were married in Dayton, Ohio, about the year 1845, and soon afterward came to Putnam county, settling in the neighborhood of Ft. Jennings, buying a farm one and one-half miles from the village, where they spent the rest of their lives and where their son, Caspar Facker, Jr., now lives. Mrs. Zink lived with her parents until she was sixteen years of age, at which time she began to support herself by taking service in the homes of others in the neighborhood, and was thus engaged until her marriage with Mr. Zink.

Following his marriage, Joseph Zink started for himself by renting a farm near Ft. Jennings and was thus employed for five years, at the end of which time he bought a farm in the northeast corner of Greensburg township, Putnam county, where he lived until 1906, and where his son now lives. Though this farm is now well improved and productive, at the time Mr. Zink took it over it was a densely wooded swamp and there were little opportunities in those days for adequate soil drainage. In fact, the place was so swampy that it was said Mr. Zink could row a boat around his house. At the time he took the place, however, there was no house on it and it fell to him to provide a home for his bride. The log cabin which he quickly built was at first "daubed" with mud, but later these chinks were filled with mortar. Mr. Zink laughingly says that in the winters, when he was not otherwise engaged about the place, he always could find occupation shoveling the snow out of the attic, whither it had drifted in under the clapboard roof. After about eight years of incessant toil, this farm was drained, cleared and brought to a profitable state of cultivation, and is now included among the excellent farms of the county, with its good house, barns and other improvements. During his residence in Greensburg township, Mr. Zink served for seven years as township trustee and did much for the development of that section of the county.

While he was engaged in subduing the forest and the swamp, however, Mr. Zink found time to cultivate the wide acquaintance of his neighbors and became one of the best known men in that part of the county. Indeed, his acquaintance was not limited to his own neighborhood, but extended to all parts of the county, so much so that when, in 1905, Mr. Zink received the nomination for sheriff on the Democratic ticket, he was so well known throughout the county and so deservedly popular that his election was well nigh assured from the beginning of the race. He took office at Ottawa, in

1906, and gave such general satisfaction in administering the affairs of the sheriff's office that he was renominated and re-elected for another two-year term, at the end of which term, by reason of an amendment to the law relating to tenure, an extra year was added to his term, making five years in all in which he held this office, and it is hardly necessary to say that he proved to be one of the most popular sheriffs the county ever had. Following the expiration of his term of office, Mr. Zink remained in the sheriff's office for two years, serving as deputy under Sheriff Miller, who had been a deputy during the latter's tenure. At the close of this deputyship, Mr. Zink retired from public life with the proud satisfaction of well and truly having served the public and having discharged all the duties devolving upon him with fairness and fidelity.

After leaving office, Mr. Zink moved to a farm of one hundred and five acres of well improved land, which he shortly before had bought, about two miles north of Ottawa, and here he is living happily and comfortably, enjoying the confidence, respect and esteem of the whole community.

To Joseph and Mary (Facker) Zink were born five children: William, who married Della Perkey and who now lives on the old home farm in Greensburg township, where Mr. and Mrs. Zink spent the happy days of their early struggles; Laura, who married Arthur Conn and lives at Ottawa, they having three children, Marie, Ellsworth and Helen; Elizabeth, the wife of Grover Phillips, lives at Detroit, Michigan, and has two children, Virginia and William; Edward, unmarried, lives at home, and Cora graduated from the high school at Ottawa.

The Zinks are all members of the Catholic church at Ottawa, and are active in the various beneficences of the parish, at the same time taking their share in all the good works of the community, being very properly regarded as among the leaders in their large circle of friends and acquaintances.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IRWIN.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, the record of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this section, Benjamin Franklin Irwin occupies a prominent place. For many years he has exerted a beneficial influence in the locality where he resides. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which have enabled him, not only to advance his own interests, but also largely to contribute to the

moral and the material advancement of the community where he lives, and especially to the moral advancement of Pleasant township.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, the subject of this sketch, was born on August 26, 1869, in Pleasant township in Putnam county. He is the son of Benjamin Franklin, Sr., and Lydia (Hayden) Irwin, the latter of whom was Mr. Irwin's second wife.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, Jr., was never married. He spent his boyhood days on his father's farm, and still resides with his mother on the homestead in Pleasant township. Mr. Irwin owns one hundred and sixteen acres of land and follows general farming. He makes a specialty of raising live stock, and large quantities of grain. All the buildings on the farm where Mr. Irwin lives were erected by his late father, with the exception, perhaps, of the corn-crib and granary, which were built by the son in 1905.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, Jr., is the present efficient township trustee of Pleasant township, having assumed that office in 1912. He was elected at that time to a term of two years. In politics, Mr. Irwin is a Democrat. He was always been prominent, locally, in the councils of the Democratic party. While he is not a member of any church, he is a man of strong religious convictions, and is a power for good in the community where he lives. Mr. Irwin is a member of No. 464, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Columbus Grove and is a quiet, unassuming man, and well known in Putnam county. He is considered a very capable farmer and bears a high reputation in this community for his honesty of purpose and sterling character. He is a booster of all progressive movements and, in every respect, a worthy citizen.

Benjamin Franklin Irwin, Sr., was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on November 30, 1821, and died, May 22, 1902. His first wife was Sarah J. Lease, who was born on April 26, 1836, and who died on June 28, 1861. By this first marriage there were four children, as follow: Harmon L., born on June 16, 1855; Margaret A., September 5, 1857; Eva, August 1, 1859; and Sarah J., born June 28, 1861.

After the death of Mrs. Sarah J. (Lease) Irwin, Mr. Irwin was married again on March 28, 1864, to Lydia J. Hayden, who was born on May 7, 1839, in Stark county. By this second union nine children were born, Martha Emma on March 9, 1865; Clement L., July 26, 1866, died on September 10, 1866; George Thurman, September 20, 1867, died on January 30, 1897; Benjamin F., the subject of this sketch, as heretofore stated, August 25, 1869; Nathaniel K., January 20, 1871; James A., March 13, 1874; Charles P., December 9, 1876; Kemerer L., May 16, 1879, and Guy, January 14, 1882.

When Benjamin F. Irwin settled in Putnam county, it was a dense forest. There was scarcely a stick of timber missing and but a few residents in the

neighborhood where Mr. Irwin settled, and it was owing to his indefatigable courage and unswerving purpose, together with hard work that this dense forest was cleared for the plow. Benjamin F. Irwin, Sr., was a Democrat. All in all he was a hard-working farmer and suffered all the privations of pioneer life. The father of Benjamin F. Irwin, Sr., was Josiah Kennedy Irwin, who married Catherine Bartman. Benjamin F. Irwin's second wife was the daughter of Nathaniel and Eliza (Bothers) Hayden.

All of the members of the Irwin family are well known throughout Putnam county, and the fact that the progenitors of this family have been pioneers in the history of this county for several generations, they have been highly respected citizens and have added much to the material prosperity of this county. Benjamin Franklin Irwin, Jr., is no exception to this rule. He is a worthy citizen of Pleasant township, and from any standpoint deserves the confidence and esteem bestowed upon him by the people of this county.

HENRY KOTTENBROCK.

All progress is continuous, one generation merely gathering the ripe fruits of the labors of its predecessors, each succeeding generation building on the firm foundation laid by others. In reviewing the history of the successive generations of Putnam county, Ohio, the historian is compelled to take large note of the influence exerted upon this community by those sturdy settlers of German birth, who in a past generation did so well their part in helping to lay the foundation upon which the noble superstructure of substantial social, moral, civic, commercial and industrial worth has been erected. Among these worthy representatives of the former generation who are still living to give to the present generation in this county the benefit of their ripe experience and judgment, few are better known than the venerable Henry Kottenbrock, a pioneer resident of Ottawa township, who, as he nears the nonagenarian stage of his life, is comfortably and happily situated in the home of his daughter, the good wife of Township Trustee Joseph Klausung, of Ottawata township, a home which Mr. Kottenbrock practically wrested from the grasp of the wilderness many years before.

Henry Kottenbrock was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on June 15, 1827, a son of Herman and Katherine (Scheele) Kottenbrock. He grew up in Germany, learning there the thoroughness of discipline and the value of thrift so much insisted on in the German system of education, and at the age of

twenty-one decided to come to America, many glowing accounts of the advantages others of his fellow townsmen and some of his kinsfolk had found awaiting them on this side of the Atlantic, having come back to his part of the Fatherland. He landed at New Orleans, where he remained for a time, and afterward joined the Glandorf colony in Putnam county. He had learned the trade of shoe-making at his home in Germany and during the early days of his residence here continued to follow this trade, making his home with an uncle, who some time before had come to America and who owned a farm of forty acres southwest of Ottawa. Encouraged by the good word sent back home by their son, Henry Kottenbrock's parents presently joined him at Glandorf, and entered upon the life of a pioneer farmer, renting the uncle's land. At that time this section of the county was very sparsely settled, there being only a few houses in Glandorf. Soon after settling in this county, Mr. Kottenbrock's father died on this farm, where he had lived all his life, and Henry and the other members of the family purchased the uncle's property and continued to make it their home.

At the age of twenty-seven, more than sixty years ago, Mr. Kottenbrock married Elizabeth Feltman, who was born in Glandorf, the daughter of Henry Feltman and wife, who had come from Hanover in pioneer times, having been among the first to join Professor Horstman's historic colony. After his marriage, Mr. Kottenbrock continued to live on the farm which had been taken over from the uncle and on which he still lives. In the early days, in addition to his duties as a manager of the farm, he plied his trade of shoe-making with much industry, and prospered apace, gradually adding to his holdings until eventually he owned three hundred and sixty acres of fine land.

To Henry and Elizabeth (Feltman) Kottenbrock there were born twelve children: Joseph died when two years old; Elizabeth died in infancy, and Herman grew up and was killed in a coal mine disaster in North Dakota. The nine children of this family still living are: Henry, who makes his home in North Dakota; Mrs. Mary Rechline, who lives in Miller City, this county; William, who also lives in North Dakota; John, who resides on the old home place; Annie, the wife of August Kneuve, lives in Missouri; Barney, a successful farmer, who lives in the southwestern part of Ottawa township, this county; Frank, a farmer of Pleasant township, this county; Mrs. Kate Fembert, of Ottawa township, and Amelia, wife of Joseph Klausing, township trustee of Ottawa township. The mother of these children died in 1903, and the aged father continues to make his home in the old home place, where the evening of his life is being made pleasant by the ministrations of his daughter, Mrs. Klausing, and her family, and where he constantly is in

receipt of the kindest attentions of the entire neighborhood, in which this pioneer is held in the highest regard by all.

Mr. Kottenbrock is one of the oldest inhabitants of Putnam county, and the biographer finds much pleasure in presenting to the readers of this volume this interesting biographical sketch. He has been a considerable traveler in his day and continues to take an active interest in current affairs. He has been to North Dakota and to the World's Fair and other places of interest, and still visits and goes about with as much activity as many men of much fewer years. Mr. Kottenbrock is a genial old gentleman, who is highly esteemed in the community in which he so long has lived and is a most entertaining host, having in his mind an inexhaustible fund of reminiscences of the days gone by. His hearing still is good and he is keenly alert to all matters of neighborhood interest and concern. He has also visited his daughter, Mrs. Kneuve, in Portageville, Missouri.

ANDREW GERDEMAN.

Among the many German families in Putnam county there are few which have a wider connection or acquaintance or whose members have exerted a more active influence upon the best life of the respective communities in which they reside, than the family of Gerdeman, which has been honorably represented in this county since the year 1837, in which year John D. Gerdeman came to America and located in Putnam county. He was the father of eight children, of whom five were sons, and the name, consequently, has become one of the best known in that portion of the county in which its influence has been most largely exerted. This family has done well its part in maintaining in this section the best traditions of the Fatherland, which John D. Gerdeman and others of his kind so firmly inculcated in the minds of those who followed them in natural descent hereabout; industry, thrift and perseverance being traits which have operated largely in the establishment of the numerous prosperous Germanic families in this county. Among these families, few are better known than that of Andrew Gerdeman, of Ottawa township, and the reader's attention is invited to the following brief biography, which has to do with one of the sons of John D. Gerdeman above referred to.

Andrew Gerdeman was born on the farm, three miles southeast of Ottawa, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on August 11, 1864, the son of

John D. and Mary Ann (Redecker) Gerdeman, both natives of Hanover, Germany. John D. Gerdeman was born in 1817, and came to America in the year 1837, proceeding to the town of Delphos, Ohio, where he spent about a year working in a saw-mill, at the end of which time he came to Putnam county and bought a farm south of that village, joining the large German colony that had settled in the Glandorf neighborhood, on which farm the immediate subject of this sketch now makes his home. On this farm, which he wrested from the wilderness and brought to a high state of cultivation, John D. Gerdeman spent the rest of his life and made for himself a distinctive place in the community, long being regarded as one of the most influential men in that community.

John D. Gerdeman married Mary Ann Redecker, who was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1829, and who, at the tender age of four years, came to America with her parents and grew to womanhood on a farm about one mile south of the town of Ottawa. To this union were born eight children, of whom six are still living: Anna died at the age of four years; Frank died in 1911, leaving a widow and six children; Joseph, an Ottawa township farmer, married Mary Schleuter, to which union there was issue of seven children; Mary Ann married Herman Gosling, and Elizabeth married Henry Hermiller. The other sons, besides Andrew, the subject of this sketch, are Henry and Theodore. The father of these children died on January 5, 1890, in his seventy-third year, his widow surviving him until March 31, 1909.

Andrew Gerdeman was reared on the paternal farm and received his education in the local schools of his neighborhood, his training being that of a farmer. On May 24, 1887, Mr. Gerdeman was united in marriage to Kate Nierman, who was born at Glandorf, this county, the daughter of August and Mary (Krieger) Nierman, the former of whom was a native of Germany and the latter of whom was born in Glandorf, in Putnam county. August and Mary (Krieger) Nierman were married in Glandorf, Putnam county, and settled on a farm in Ottawa township, and lived there for many years. He died on this farm on February 22, 1881, after which she removed to Glandorf, where she still lives. Their children were Annie, Katherine, Mary, John, August and Magdalene, all of whom are still living.

Following his marriage, Andrew Gerdeman remained on the home farm, where he since has continued to reside. He has a well equipped establishment for successful farming on his place of one hundred and twenty acres, and is known as one of the most progressive agriculturists in his neighborhood, as well as a wide-awake and public-spirited citizen, who is alert to all move-

ments designed to promote the best interests of the community in which all his life thus far has been spent.

To Andrew and Kate (Nierman) Gerdeman have been born seven children, as follow: Albert, who married Veronica Meyer, by whom he has one son, Leonard, lives at Toledo, Ohio, where he is in the employ of the Gendron Wheel Works; Hubert, who married Rosa Ruhe, lives in Ottawa township; Hugo, Alexander, Edmund, Otto and Felix, all of whom are at home. The members of this family are all devoted adherents to the Catholic church at Glandorf and are deeply interested in the affairs of the parish, in the various activities of which they take a prominent part.

FRANK RECKER.

Frank Recker was born on January 26, 1862, on the farm where he still lives, about one mile south of Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of Herman Henry and Mary (Kottenbrock) Becker, both of whom were representative pioneers of their neighborhood.

Herman Henry Recker was born in Hanover, Germany, on June 24, 1816, the son of John H. and Anna M. (Linckemeyer) Recker. His wife, Mary, also was born in Germany, at Oldenburg, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Huntman) Kottenbrock, who came to this country in the year 1836, when Mary was eleven years of age, settling in the Glandorf neighborhood as a part of Professor Horstman's famous colony, at which place Herman Henry Recker had located a few years before, and it was here, at Glandorf, January 7, 1840, that Herman Henry Recker and Mary Kottenbrock were married and where they spent the rest of their lives, being regarded by their pioneer neighbors as among the most useful and influential residents of that section of the county, and were especially notable for their manifold good works, the memory of which survives in that community long after them.

It was about the year 1832 that Herman Henry Recker, the father of Frank Recker, then having reached the adventurous age of sixteen, decided to put in his lot with that of so many of his countrymen, who, about that time, were leaving for the farther shores of the Atlantic. He landed at New Orleans and for about a year remained in the South, looking around him and acquiring something of the manners and customs of the people of his adopted country. Gradually working his way up from New Orleans, he

presently found himself in the newly settled town of Glandorf, and it did not take him long to decide permanently to become a member of Father Horstman's colony. On the way over from Lima, following the trail which was the only highway at that time, he was met by two Indians, who were leisurely proceeding along the trail on their ponies. These aboriginals accosted him, but as he could not understand their language or gather from their gestures their meaning, he decided to give them a wide berth. When they offered him something to drink, which was contained in a big tin vessel, he declined their proffer, not knowing what their designs upon his life might be, and they presently rode away without having offered him molestation. Upon narrating the incident upon his arrival among friends at Glandorf, the young adventurer found himself laughed at, the explanation being made by his more experienced compatriots that the Indians simply had desired to declare their friendly intentions by offering him a drink of whisky.

At Glandorf Herman Henry Becker grew to manhood, learning all the ways of the pioneer farmer and becoming deeply versed in woodcraft and the most approved methods for dealing with virgin forest soil, clearing it and preparing it for cultivation. He entered from the government a tract of forty acres of land, about a mile south of Glandorf, to which he later added a neighboring tract of forty acres that he had acquired by purchase, and here he spent the rest of his life. On his original forty, which now is in the possession of his son, Frank, there was not so much as the mark of an ax when he entered it and the task of clearing this kept him busy for the first few years of his residence in this county. After his marriage he had an earnest and able helpmeet and he and his good wife early became recognized as among the leaders in that interesting pioneer community, and held all their lives the most devoted regard of all their neighbors. Henry Herman Recker was a man of noble character, a man to whom his neighbors willingly came for advice and counsel and as willingly were content to abide by that advice and counsel, realizing that it was based upon the soundest judgment and the most earnest desire for the advancement of the best interests of all. He was essentially a peacemaker, and during his long life had the pleasure of adjusting many a neighborhood difference, all recognizing the goodness of his word. It was but natural that the community should elevate Mr. Recker to positions of public honor and trust, and for twenty-one years he presided in his township as justice of the peace, in which office he ever strove to settle local differences without lawsuits, many cases being settled in this fashion, by kindly counsel and compromise, although, by such methods, the justice of the peace was deprived of the fees which would have come to him under the

ordinary processes of the law. Though Mr. Recker had secured no schooling in the English language, he was a man of fine powers of observation and quickly acquired the use of the language of his adopted country, which he not only spoke fluently, but wrote readily, being an excellent penman and an accurate speller of the English, these accomplishments having been picked up wholly by himself. From 1868 to 1874 Mr. Recker served Putnam county as a commissioner, his service in this connection being valuable to the public. Soon after this he was appointed to the position of superintendent of the county infirmary, which trying position he filled in such a manner as to commend his methods to all. In 1880 he served his second term as land appraiser, in all his public acts keeping the welfare of the public ever in his mind. He was popular, large-hearted and generous, and his friends were limited only to the number of those who knew him, and at his death there was wide and sincere mourning throughout the county.

To Herman Henry and Mary (Kottenbrock) Recker nine children were born, all of whom grew to maturity, and all of whom are living save Anna, who was the wife of Charles Schroeder, the others being, in the order of their birth: Henry; John; Mary, the wife of William Schmitschulte; Kate, the widow of John Klafor; Elizabeth, the wife of Joseph Leopold; Herman; Frank, the immediate subject of this review, and Minnie, widow of the late William Hermiller. The father of the above family died on January 16, 1884, his widow surviving until April 6, 1907.

Frank Recker grew up on the home farm under the careful direction of his thoughtful parents and was given all the advantages offered by the local schools. At the end of his schooling period he determined to follow the life of a farmer. On June 22, 1886, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Feltman, who was born in Glandorf, the daughter of Bernard and Katherine Elizabeth (Niese) Feltman, the former of whom was the son of pioneer parents, who came to this country from Glandorf, Germany, and settled at Glandorf, this county, soon after Father Horstman and his party established their colony here.

In addition to his farming operations, Frank Recker for three years was engaged in the hardware business with August Fisher, at Glandorf. He sold this interest in 1908 and went to Texas, where he engaged in the hardware business for a year, at the end of which time he sold out and returned to the old home place in Ottawa township, Putnam county, where he has since continued to reside. Besides farming, he runs a portable power-ditching machine and also deals quite a little in live stock. Before dividing his farm with his sons, he owned two hundred and sixty acres of land, one of the

choicest farms in the county. In addition to the close attention he has been compelled to give to his personal affairs, Mr. Recker has found time to devote proper attention to public affairs and has served well and acceptably in the position of township trustee, besides having held other local offices and is regarded distinctively as one of the leading men of affairs in his community.

To Frank and Mary (Feltman) Recker six children have been born, as follow: Ben, who lives one and one-half miles west of the old home in section 30, and who married Emma Verhoff; Louis, who married Anna Schroeder and lives in Pleasant township, about one mile southwest of the old home, and Joseph, Emma, Edwin and Dora.

The Reckers are devoted members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and are earnestly interested in the various beneficences of the parish, being very properly regarded as among the leaders in the good works of the community, and are admired and respected by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

J. FRED GERDEMAN.

J. Fred Gerdeman is a well-known and popular citizen of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, and a successful dairyman of this township. Mr. Gerdeman is a man who is much admired by his neighbors and patrons and is known for his keen perceptive faculties, unusual soundness of judgment and upright dealings with all his patrons. Today his name stands high on the roll of the honored citizens of Putnam county. He is a member of one of the old pioneer families of this county and there is particular interest in his career in the fact that, like his many worthy forbears, he has forged his way to the front and won a rather unusual measure of success.

J. Fred Gerdeman was born on July 4, 1879, just north of Ottawa. He is the son of Mathias and Elizabeth (Ellerbrock) Gerdeman. Mathias Gerdeman was born in Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany, on November 13, 1833, who was the son of Caspar and Mary (Kruse) Gerdeman. Caspar and Mary (Kruse) Gerdeman came to America when Mathias was five or six years old, and settled west of Glandorf, four or five miles in pioneer times. Caspar and Mary (Kruse) Gerdeman were married in Germany. In 1836 they settled in Putnam county, Greensburg township, on a farm of eighty acres of government land. This farm was cleared and drained and the home established in the wilderness. The children of Caspar and Mary (Kruse) Gerdeman are



J. FRED GERDEEMAN.

as follow: Mathias, deceased; Bernadina, deceased; Theodore, deceased; Mary; Henry; Joseph; Caspar; Elizabeth, and Anna, deceased. Of these, Theodore served in Company I, Thirty-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War. He was captured during the war, but released on account of illness and was confined in the marine hospital at St. Louis; Mathias was educated in Greensburg township and married Elizabeth Ellerbrock, daughter of William Ellerbrock and wife who was a Dickman, the latter of whose parents came from Glandorf, Germany, and settled in Ottawa township where they were farmers. The children of Mathias Gerdeman and wife were Fred; Joseph; Frank; Mary; Anna, deceased, and Theresa. Caspar Gerdeman died on June 14, 1891, and his wife died on April 24, 1889.

Mathias Gerdeman was a carpenter and architect for thirty-five years. He began about 1850, and, in 1882, purchased a farm about two miles north of Ottawa and there spent the rest of his life. He died in 1908. His wife died in 1903. They had six children, Anna became the wife of Andrew Ringleim. She died on August 11, 1914. The five children living are Frank, of Findlay; Mrs. Mary Utrup, of Ottawa; Mrs. Theresa Herringhaus, of Lima; Joseph, who lives south of Kalida, and Fred, the subject of this review.

Fred Gerdeman grew up where he now lives. Early in life he took a course in dairying at Ohio State University. This was eleven years ago. He farmed the home place where he lives, two miles north of Ottawa, for many years and now has one hundred and sixty acres of good land. In 1912 Mr. Gerdeman engaged in dairying and has a herd of thirty-eight good cattle. He has modern equipment, including a steam turbine for cleaning the bottles. He also has all the other machinery needed for the modern dairy.

On October 12, 1904, J. Fred Gerdeman was married to Mary Kreinbrink, who was born at Avilla, Indiana, and who is the daughter of Theodore and Frances (Teders) Kreinbrink.

Theodore Kreinbrink was born in Covington, Kentucky on March 17, 1854, and is the son of Frederick and Mary Elizabeth (Barringhaus) Kreinbrink. Frederick Kreinbrink was born in Hagen, Hanover, Germany, and was a son of Herman Kreinbrink and wife, who, with his family, came to America during the thirties and lived first at Cincinnati. A few years later they settled at Glandorf, Putnam county, during the time Professor Horstman and his party were opening the country around Glandorf. Herman Kreinbrink helped dig the old canal and lived near Glandorf the remainder of his life. He died in that neighborhood at the age of eighty-four years.

Mrs. Gerdeman's maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Barringhaus, came from Germany at the age of twelve years with her parents who settled at Covington, Kentucky. After she and Frederick Kreinbrink were married, they moved to Avilla, Indiana, where Theodore grew up on a farm. In October, 1879, he married Frances Teders, who was born at Cincinnati and is the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Kruse) Teders, both natives of Germany who were married in Cincinnati. They moved to a farm near Avilla and there Mrs. Kreinbrink grew up. After she and Mr. Kreinbrink were married, they lived on a farm for twenty years. He had a farm of his own and lived there until 1899, when they moved to Putnam county and engaged in farming, about three miles north of Ottawa. Five years later, they moved south of Ottawa and lived there for two years, where they moved back to Ottawa, where they still reside. They have seven children, Fred; Mary, who married Fred Gerdeman; John; Julius; Frances who married Fred Drerup; Estelle, now Mrs. Oscar Dimkey, and Agnes. The family all belong to the Catholic church.

J. Fred and Mary (Kreinbrink) Gerdeman have had five children, Mildred, Maria, Genevieve, James and Wilfred. They all belong to the Catholic church at Ottawa. Fraternally, Mr. Gerdeman belongs to the Knights of Columbus and also to the Catholic Knights of Ohio.

The Gerdeman family is well known in this section and all are highly respected and honored citizens, having performed every duty in life and having led respectful, industrious and useful careers.

HENRY JOHN BENNING.

One of the leaders in the educational life of Putnam county, Ohio, is Henry John Benning, who has been connected with the schools of this county since 1901. His first position in this county was as superintendent of the Ottoville schools, but since 1909 he has been located at Glandorf as superintendent of the schools of that place, as well as district superintendent of the township schools of Ottawa, Greensburg township, and eight special school districts of the county. Mr. Benning is a musician of exceptional ability and is a fine performer on the pipe organ. He has taken an active part in the life of Glandorf since locating in that place and is justly considered one of its representative citizens.

Henry John Benning, the son of John W. and Minnie (Luckeroth) Ben-

ning, was born in Stillwater, Minnesota, in 1878. His parents were born in Westphalia and Cologne, Germany, respectively, and were married at Stillwater, Minnesota. The family moved to St. Joseph, Minnesota, when Mr. Benning was eight years of age, where his father is now living. John W. Benning was formerly a carpenter, but is now following agricultural pursuits. His wife is deceased.

Henry John Benning was reared on the farm from the time he was eight until he was sixteen years of age. He graduated from the Minneapolis high school and then taught school two years in Morrison county, Minnesota, after which he entered the Catholic Normal College at Milwaukee, where he finished the normal and also a musical course. He remained another year and took a post-graduate course in music, studying both vocal and instrumental music, but making a specialty of the pipe organ.

In 1901 Mr. Benning came to Ottoville, Putnam county, Ohio, as superintendent of the schools and organist of the Immaculate Conception Catholic church. When he came to Ottoville he found the schools ungraded, with only three teachers in charge, but when he left there, in 1909, there were five teachers, the schools were graded and a high school course was being given. In the fall of 1909 he became superintendent of the Glandorf schools and organist of the St. John's Catholic church at that place. He started the high school at Glandorf when he came here in that year, which is second to none in the county, and now ranks as a second-grade high school. He introduced a commercial course and the graduates of this course rank with the best students of the average business college. In addition to having direct charge of the schools at Glandorf, he has general supervision over several rural schools of the county, has been a member of the board of school examiners of Putnam county for the past four years, and has also been a member of the executive committee of the teachers' institute, holding this latter position for the past six years. At the present time he is president of the quarterly teachers' institute.

Mr. Benning was married, August 20, 1902, to Catherine Kortokrax, who was born at Ottoville, Putnam county, Ohio, on May 7, 1882, and is a daughter of Christopher and Anna M. (Schroeder) Kortokrax, both natives of Hanover, Germany. Mrs. Benning's parents were married in their native country, and after coming to this country lived at Delphos, and later moved to Ottoville, Putnam county, where her father died on February 8, 1886. Mr. Benning and his wife are the parents of five children: Jerome, Anthony, Raymond, Adelaide and Dorothy.

Mr. Benning has taken an active part in the life of his community. He

was secretary of the Glandorf Telephone Company, and is vice-president of the St. John's Aid Society and recording secretary of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He and his family are earnest and devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

JOSEPH KLAUSING.

There are many public offices over which more of a fight is made in local campaigns and many offices which, in the common estimation, seem to carry more of honor and distinction, than that of the office of township trustee, but it cannot be gainsaid that this latter office is one of the most important in the gift of the people and the importance to the public of having the office filled by a man of high principle, sound judgment and perfect honesty of purpose, ought never to be underestimated in the making up of the tickets of the various parties when seeking the franchises of the people. That the people of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, realize this fully, is shown by their action in returning to the post which he had held so acceptably, for one term, the present incumbent in the office of township trustee of Ottawa township, Joseph Klausing, one of the best-known farmers of Putnam county, who is now serving his second term as trustee of his home township. In this office, Mr. Klausing has in his charge some of the most important public interests of his neighbors and that he has proved faithful to this trust, his recent re-election may be accepted as conclusive evidence.

Joseph Klausing was born on March 28, 1878, at Glandorf, this county, the son of John and Magdalene (Leopold) Klausing, a sketch of whose interesting family history is presented elsewhere in the biographical section of this admirable history of Putnam county.

When Joseph Klausing was three years of age, his family moved to his father's present farm, northeast of Ottawa, this county, where he grew to manhood, learning, under his father's careful instructions, the rudiments of agriculture, lessons he was in later years to turn to such excellent personal advantage. He gained, through this preparatory period, such schooling as was afforded by the local schools of that period, and acquired an interest in schools which he has carried through life and which he has turned to the advantage of the public during his continued incumbency of the office of township trustee and as a member of the school board of the town of Glandorf.

On June 12, 1901, Mr. Klausing was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Kottenbrock, who was born in the same house in which she now lives, a

short distance southwest of Ottawa, the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Feltman) Kottenbrock) and a sketch of whose family is found elsewhere in this volume. To this union five children have been born, Adelia Elizabeth, John Henry, Alexander William, Albert Frank and Mary Magdalene, a lively family of youngsters who make merry the home of the genial township trustee. The members of this family are devoted adherents of the Catholic church at Glandorf, in the various beneficences of which they take a proper interest.

Since his marriage, Mr. Klausing has continued to follow agricultural pursuits and has made his home on the Kottenbrock farm, the girlhood home of his wife. Both he and Mrs. Klausing own land, their combined holdings comprising an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres. In addition to serving his second term as township trustee and serving on the Glandorf school board, Mr. Klausing has received other evidences of the regard in which the voters of his neighborhood hold him and has held various other local positions of public trust. He is a Democrat and his counsels are considered of value by the party managers in the county, who have learned to rely upon the soundness of his judgment in the making up of estimates concerning political conditions in his own neighborhood. In the community which he serves so creditably in a public capacity, Mr. Klausing is deservedly held in high repute and he and his family are very popular in the social circle which stands for all good things in Ottawa township and the Glandorf neighborhood.

JOHN ROSENBAUER.

One of the enterprising and successful farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, who has succeeded in his chosen vocation, largely because of his own courage, persistency and good management, is John Rosenbauer, of Ottawa township, a man who believes in lending what aid he can to his neighbors and the general public, while advancing his own personal interests. Consequently, he is regarded as one of the best citizens of Ottawa township, and a man eminently entitled to representation in a work of this character.

John Rosenbauer was born in 1877, just west of Glandorf, Putnam county. He is the son of Barney and Agnes (Nuevemann) Rosenbauer, the former born on the same farm as his son, John, in September, 1847. Barney Rosenbauer is a son of John and Mary (Berning) Rosenbauer. John Rosenbauer came from Saxony and his wife from Emsdetten, Germany. They

were married in America and were early settlers in Putnam county, where they purchased their land from Professor Horstman and lived and died in Glandorf.

Barney Rosenbauer grew up here and was married to Agnes Nueve-mann, who was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, and who lived there when Hanover was taken by Prussia. She is a daughter of Theodore and Catherine (Hoffman) Nueveman. Her father died in the old country and she and her two sisters, Mrs. Fred Michel, of Ottawa township, and Mrs. George Recker, of Sheppard, Michigan, came to this country in 1871, arriving at Glandorf in June of that year. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Rosenbauer lived nine years on the old homestead, at Glandorf, and then one year in Union township, after which they purchased a farm from George Uphaus, one and one-fourth miles west of Glandorf, just south of the railroad, and here they lived until Mr. Rosenbauer's death. He purchased eighty acres of land and was a successful farmer. John is the eldest of three children, born to this union. Barney Rosenbauer died on April 6, 1905; Mary also is deceased, and his widow still lives on the home place.

John Rosenbauer, the subject of this sketch, was married, June 9, 1903, to Elizabeth Birkemeier, who was born in the western part of Ottawa township, along the Kalida road. She is the daughter of William and Bernardine (Uphaus) Birkemeier.

William Birkemeier was born on March 4, 1842, about two miles southwest of Glandorf, Putnam county, the son of William, Sr., and Catherine (Dickman) Birkemeier. William Birkemeier, Sr., was born in Glandorf, Germany, and grew up there and married Catherine Dickman. They came to America in pioneer times and located on the farm where William, Jr., was born. This they bought and made their permanent home. William, Sr., died about 1875 and his widow about 1890. William, Jr., grew up there and in 1863 was married to Mary Bernardine Uphaus, who was born about one and one-fourth miles west of Glandorf near where the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad now runs. She is the daughter of John G. and Catherine (Poepelman) Uphaus, who came to America in 1835, where they located in section 30 of Ottawa township on a farm of one hundred and four acres, containing a round-log cabin. A few acres of their farm were cleared and improved. Cultivation was continued with assiduous care by the father until his death in January, 1884, at the age of eighty-two years, his wife having died on May 19, 1881, at the age of seventy-eight years. Mr. Uphaus was a stanch Democrat and held several local offices. He was treasurer of Ottawa township for nine years and was one of the organizers and incorporators of

the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Putnam county. For twenty-five years, he was its president, also being a carpenter and farmer. He was a devout member of the Catholic church at Glandorf and in all ways was a useful citizen.

After William Birkemeier was married, he spent the remainder of his life on the farm of about one hundred and twenty acres, where he was born and where his son now lives. He died in 1910 and his wife in 1912. They were devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. Their children were as follow: William; Henry; Frank; Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Rosenbauer; Mary, the wife of William Ellerbrock, and Bernard, living at Kalida.

Since his marriage, Mr. Rosenbauer has farmed the place where he was reared and where he now lives. He and his wife are the parents of three children, Mary, Harry and Raymond. The family are all members of the Catholic church at Glandorf and liberal contributors to its support.

JOHN DIEMER.

One of the most public-spirited and popular residents of Ottawa township, this county, is John Diemer, whose name engages the attention of the reader of this page of the biographical section of the "History of Putnam County." Mr. Diemer not only has made a success of his farming operations in this county, but has firmly fixed his place in the regard of his fellow citizens. Mr. Diemer is at present serving his second term as trustee of Ottawa township.

John Diemer was born in the year 1871 at New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, the son of Peter and Isabelle (Zoll) Diemer, the former of whom also was a native of New Bavaria, a son of John and Catherine (Wien) Diemer.

John Diemer, paternal grandfather of the subject of this biographical review, came from Germany, probably from Bavaria, and located at New Bavaria, Ohio, where he spent the rest of his life, and it was here that Peter Diemer, father of Trustee Diemer, grew to manhood and spent the most of his life. Peter Diemer engaged in farming in Henry county, remaining there until late in life when he retired and moved to Leipsic, in this county, where his death occurred four or five years later, on January 23, 1907. During his long residence in Henry county, Peter Diemer also was engaged in the saw-milling business and also managed a threshing-machine outfit for many years. He was a man of substance, one of the leading citizens of his neighborhood

and several times was called on to serve the public in offices of trust and responsibility. For several terms he served as trustee of Pleasant township, Henry county, and also had served as assessor of Marion township, in the same county.

Peter Diemer's wife, Isabelle Zoll, mother of the subject of this sketch, was born in Findlay, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Zoll, Pennsylvania Germans, who moved to Hancock county, where Mrs. Diemer was born, later, while the latter was a little girl, they moved to Henry county, where they spent the rest of their days engaged in farming. Mrs. Peter Diemer now lives in Leipsic, this county, and is regarded with the highest respect by all who know her. To Peter and Isabelle (Zoll) Diemer four children were born: John, Mary, Charles and Christina. Mary is the wife of John Zenz and Christina is the wife of Lawrence Seimet.

John Diemer lived on his father's farm, in Henry county, until his marriage, in 1894, when he started farming on land which he rented from his father in that county. In 1905 the latter sold this farm and bought another place, about two miles northeast of Ottawa, where John Diemer has lived ever since, and where he has a farm of eighty-three and one-half acres, under a high state of cultivation. He has been a good manager and public-spirited citizen, a good "mixer" in the neighborhood, and consequently, is popular with all the people of that section of the county. He has served on the township school board and is now township trustee, having been elected, in 1913, to succeed himself to the office to which he came by appointment in 1911, his administration having proved so popular as to recommend him for re-election.

On November 27, 1894, John Diemer was united in marriage to Mary Werner, who was born near New Bavaria, but across the line in Putnam county, the daughter of Matthias and Catherine (Gedart) Werner, both of whom were natives of Prussia.

In the year 1846, when Matthias Werner was nineteen years of age, he accompanied his parents to America, the family first locating in Lorain county, later moving to St. Louis, Missouri, where the father died. The mother later married Mr. Baumgardner and moved to New Bavaria, Henry county, where she spent the rest of her life, her death occurring on March 12, 1910.

Matthias Werner remained in Lorain county many years and there, about the year 1850, married Catherine Gedart, the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Schmitz) Gedart, who had come from Prussia, when she was about ten years of age, and who spent the remainder of their lives in Lorain county. Following his marriage, Matthias Werner moved to Putnam county

and was counted among the early settlers of the northern part of Palmer township, where he spent the most of his life. His last days, however, were spent with Mr. and Mrs. Diemer, in Ottawa township, his death occurring on January 6, 1911, his wife having preceded him to the grave the previous year, her death having occurred on March 12, 1910.

Matthias and Catherine (Gedart) Werner were the parents of thirteen children: Jacob, who died at the age of two years; John; Joseph; Emma, deceased; Nicholas, deceased; Kate, deceased, all of whom died of diphtheria within ten days while the family was living in Lorain county, it having been this tragic succession of death which prompted the family to leave Lorain and move to Putnam county; Peter; Kate, who married John Melcher; Frank; George; Jacob; Josephine, deceased, and Mary, the wife of Mr. Diemer.

To John and Mary (Werner) Diemer have been born nine children, all of whom are living and all of whom are at home, making the Diemer home one of the liveliest and pleasantest, from a social standpoint, of any in that section of the county. This lively family of youngsters are: Clara Isabelle, Bernard Peter, Charles Raymond, Christina Loretta, Agnes Cecelia, John Albert, Martha Marie, Lidella-Lucetta and Alice Dorthy.

Mr. and Mrs. Diemer and their children are all devoted members of the Catholic church at Ottawa, and are active participants in the various beneficences of the parish, being very properly regarded among the leaders in the good works of the community in which they live and whose most vital interests they have so deeply at heart. Both in his public and in his private relations, Mr. Diemer is trying to do his duty by his fellow men and is counted as one of the substantial and influential men in his part of the county. He is a Democrat and in the local councils of his party his voice is listened to with respect, consideration being given his judgments regarding men and measures when such matters come up for public discussion.

BARNEY KOTTENBROCK.

Among the numerous families which came with, or later joined, the historic colony which Father Horstman established in Putnam county, Ohio, at an early day in the settlement of the county, few family names are better known than that of Kottenbrock, there being numerous representatives of the family who have done well their part in the development of the various valuable resources of the now substantially established commonwealth.

One of the best-known representatives of this family, Barney Kottenbrock, a prosperous farmer of Ottawa township, was born on January 5, 1873, about one mile southwest of Ottawa; the son of Henry and Elizabeth Kottenbrock, well-known pioneers of that section, further mention of whose part in the development of the neighborhood in which they so long lived, is made on another page of this interesting volume of biographical sketches.

Barney Kottenbrock grew up on his father's farm, receiving the benefit of the schools of that day and the additional and very valuable benefit of the conscientious instructions of an earnest father and mother who instilled into his mind many wholesome lessons that are not taught at school, and prepared him for the active life of a farmer, which vocation he, early in life, decided was the thing for him to follow. At the age of twenty-five years, Barney Kottenbrock married Anna Fembert, who was born about one and one-half miles south of Ottawa, the daughter of Bernard Herman and Anna (Herlager) Fembert, and who died at the age of twenty-four, about a year after her marriage, leaving a daughter, Elizabeth.

The Femberts are an old family in Putnam county. B. Herman Fembert, father of the late Mrs. Kottenbrock, was born on a farm just south of Ottawa, in Ottawa township, in August, 1845, the son of Bernard Herman and Adelheid (Stegeman) Fembert, who were married in Hanover, Germany, and who came to America and located in the southwest part of this county not long after the establishment of the Horstman colony. Upon coming here, the Femberts, for a time, settled in a shanty located between Ft. Jennings and Delphos and for two years Mr. Fembert worked on the construction of the old canal. He then bought forty acres in section 34, Ottawa township, the land being just as the Indians left it, absolutely without improvements of any sort. At that time the Indians were taking their final departure from this part of Ohio and Mr. Fembert was brought much in contact with them. He liked the aboriginals and found that they always were good so long as they were treated right. In this unbroken forest he built his primitive cabin and cleared the land, between whiles going back to the canal work for the purpose of earning enough money for the subsistence of himself and family until his farm could be brought to a productive state. He was not only a farmer, but an expert wooden-shoe maker, at which latter handicraft he turned an additional penny from time to time. On this farm, which eventually contained one hundred and forty acres, the Femberts lived for many years and prospered. To Mr. and Mrs. Fembert nine children were born, three of whom died in their childhood. The elder Fembert remained on this farm until his children married, and then, his wife having died

when the son Herman was sixteen years of age, made his home during the rest of his life with his son Herman and family, his death occurring on June 16, 1894.

Bernard Herman Fembert, Jr., grew up on the farm, receiving such advantages as could be given the youth of that period, and at the age of twenty-two, in the year 1867, married Anna Herlager, who was born in Greensburg township, this county, her parents having been among the colonists who came over from Glandorf, Germany. Upon his marriage, the younger Fembert moved on to the farm on which he now resides, and which at that time was unbroken timber. He built on this place a cabin sixteen by twenty and started married life in the depths of the forest. As he cleared and improved this land, he gradually added to the original tract until now he has ninety-five acres of well-improved farming land. His wife died on September 15, 1877, leaving five children, Catherine, Mary, Anna, Frank and Bernard, the latter of whom died at the age of eleven months. Catherine, the wife of Frank Gramling, lives at Toledo, Ohio, and has four children, Charles, John, Arnold and Adeline; Mary, the wife of Barney Uphaus, lives at the northern edge of Pleasant township, this county, and has six children, Helen, Anna, Mary, John, Gertrude and Edward; Anna married Barney Kottenbrock, the immediate subject of this sketch, and died a year thereafter, leaving a daughter, Elizabeth; Frank, who was born in 1877, married Catherine Kottenbrock and lives on the home farm with his father. He has seven children, Bernard, John, Frank, Adeline, Albert, Lawrence and Lucile. The Femberts are all earnest members of the Catholic church.

After his marriage to Anna Fembert, Mr. Kottenbrock went to farming for himself on the farm where he now lives, two and one-half miles southwest of Ottawa. He started with eighty acres and now has one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land, nearly all of these improvements, including a good house, barn and numerous outbuildings, having been added by himself.

Mr. Kottenbrock was married in 1900, a second time, to Mary Anna Duling, daughter of the late F. William and Mary Ann (Schroeder) Duling, who was born in Ottawa township on the paternal farm south of where she now lives.

The Dulings are an old family in Ottawa township, the late F. William Duling having been born in that township on March 20, 1845, the son of John H. and Mary K. (Holdmyer) Duling, who came from Osnabruck, Germany, in 1834, and settled in Putnam county, taking a farm in Ottawa town-

ship, west of Glandorf, being among the first settlers in that part of the county. On this farm, the late F. William Duling lived until his marriage on April 17, 1872, to Mary Ann Schroeder, who was born in Greensburg township on September 12, 1852, the daughter of John H. and Mary K. (Hohenbrink) Schroeder, both natives of Germany. John Henry Schroeder was born in 1821, the son of Nicholas H. and Anna L. (Trahine) Schroeder, who settled in this county in 1843, and his wife was born in 1820, the daughter of John W. and Christina (Pues) Hohenbrink, who settled in this county in 1843. They were married in 1846 and were long among the best-known residents of that section of the county, Mr. Schroeder dying on November 28, 1875, Mrs. Schroeder surviving many years, her death not occurring until October 1, 1899, at the age of seventy-eight years.

After Mr. Duling's marriage, he and his wife moved to the farm where he spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on September 18, 1909, his widow, still surviving, continuing to make her home on the old home place. When they entered upon possession of this farm only about one-half of it had been cleared and there had been no attempt at drainage. The Dulings started life together in a one-room, round-log cabin with clap-board roof, in typical pioneer fashion, but gradually extended the style of their living until, presently, they had a nice house and a good barn, with other improvements to match, and had enlarged the farm by the addition of forty acres across the road to the east and eighty acres south of the base line.

F. William and Mary Ann (Schroeder) Duling were the parents of four children, Henry John, who married Adeline Recker, and lives in Ottawa township; Mary Katherina, married Ignatius Kahle of Cuba, this county, and has six children, Frances, Amos, Clara, Henry, Hubert and Anna; Mary Anna, who married Mr. Kottenbrock; Frank Joseph, married, May 27, 1914, Rosa Barlage, who was born in Greensburg township, the daughter of B. Henry and Mary Barlage, and lives on the old home place with his mother. The Dulings are all earnest members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

To the union of Barney and Mary Ann (Duling) Kottenbrock, nine children have been born, three of whom died in infancy, the others being Frances, September 4, 1902; Clarence, March 12, 1905; Mary, November 3, 1907; Emma, August 27, 1909; Anna, November 10, 1911; and Mildred, May 22, 1914, a lively little family, the pride and joy of their parents' hearts. The Kottenbrocks are devoted adherents of the Catholic church and are earnestly interested in the various beneficences of the Glandorf parish, doing their part in all the good works of the community. They are popular and highly esteemed and are regarded as among the leaders in their large social circle.

JOHN FERDINAND ELLERBROCK.

There is nothing which stimulates a man to deeds of worth and a life of uprightness and rectitude more than the recollection of the strength of character and examples of right living which have been shown by his forbears. In this respect, John F. Ellerbrock was fortunate beyond the majority of men in being descended from ancestors who have been men of strength and influence in their communities, and who have done their duty well, whether in the peaceful pursuits of ordinary life or in positions of public trust. A heritage of such memory is of more value than the heritage of material wealth. In the business and agricultural affairs of his community, Mr. Ellerbrock occupied a position of importance among those who conserve the commercial and social resources of this community, and none occupied a higher standing among his associates.

John Ferdinand Ellerbrock was born on November 9, 1832, at Glandorf, Hanover, Germany. He was a son of Theodore and Mary (Kracht) Ellerbrock. John F. was two years old when his parents brought him to America. They settled first in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, where they engaged in farming. Theodore Ellerbrock came to the United States with no resources whatever, and for many years was a farmer. He succeeded in a liberal measure, by dint of steady and persevering industry, and was the owner of a good farm. He was the founder also of the Glandorf woolen mills, and, associated with others, operated the mill as long as he lived.

John Ferdinand Ellerbrock grew up at Glandorf, and had the usual experiences which fall to the lot of a lad reared in a farming community, receiving his education in the public schools of his day.

Mr. Ellerbrock was married to Theresa Kleman, who was born south of Glandorf and was a daughter of Andrew and Mary E. (Gerdeman) Kleman. She was a sister of John H. Kleman, whose life story is found elsewhere in this volume. After Mr. Ellerbrock's marriage, he made his home in section 28, Ottawa township, where he lived until his death. He was a life-long farmer and lived on the same farm several years more than half a century. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children: Catherine, deceased, was the wife of Henry Meyer, and lived at Cleveland; Mary, the wife of Barney Schmenk, lives southwest of Leipsic; Elizabeth, the wife of Joseph Meyer, a farmer living southwest of Leipsic; Theodore died in May, 1899, and left a wife but no children; Joseph, a farmer living in section 5 of Pleasant township, married Bernardina Siebeneck, and they have five children;

Andrew, unmarried, lives on his father's farm; Anna, the wife of Henry Meyer, lives in section 8 of Pleasant township, and they have five living children; Theresa, the wife of Theodore Meyer, lives in Blanchard township, south of Leipsic, and has four living children; Bernard, living on the home farm, married Agnes Schroeder, and they have two children; Lucy is the wife of Henry Wise, a resident of New Cleveland, and they have five children; Agnes is the wife of Anthony Wise, of New Cleveland, and they have five children.

Thus Mr. and Mrs. Ellerbrock lived to rear a large family of children, who have been a credit to their father and mother, and who, in turn, have become heads of families themselves. In this respect Mr. Ellerbrock has done more for the present generation than he possibly could have done in any other way. His sons and daughters are highly respected citizens in the various communities where they live, a fact which, no doubt, was a source of great comfort and cheer to their parents while they lived. Mrs. Mary Ellerbrock died on March 27, 1884, and John F. Ellerbrock died on the home farm on December 25, 1914. The family were all devout members of the Catholic church, in whose welfare they always took an active interest, and to the support of which they add both physical and material assistance.

JOSEPH MCGINNIS.

It is proper to judge the success of a man's life by the estimation in which he is held by his neighbors and fellow citizens. They see him at work, in his family circle, in church, hear his views on public questions, observe the nature of his code of morals, witness how he conducts himself in all the relations of life, and are, therefore, competent to judge of his merits and demerits. In this connection, it is not too much to say that Joseph McGinnis lived a life of exceptional merit in Putnam county.

Mr. McGinnis was born on September 12, 1835, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He was a son of William and Rebecca (Guyton) McGinnis. William McGinnis was born in Huntington county, Pennsylvania, while his wife was born near Hagerstown, Maryland. They moved to Putnam county, Ohio, in an early day. Mr. McGinnis went to Wapakoneta, Ohio, and entered his land from the government, and was on his return from that place to Putnam county at the time of the great meteoric shower which took place in 1833. He entered land in section 7, of Ottawa township, and moved into the woods.

There were no roads at that time, except a wagon track up and down the Blanchard river. Here he spent the remainder of his life. He was a man of considerable political influence in his community and held several local offices. Joseph McGinnis was one of four children, of which number one died in infancy, and one died in early childhood. Margaret, one of the living children, is the widow of Samuel Hamilton.

Joseph McGinnis grew up as a pioneer on his father's farm. Early in life he married Mary Kraft, who was a native of Muskingum county, Ohio, a daughter of Abram Kraft and wife, who first moved to a farm near Columbus, after leaving Muskingum county, and later to a farm on Powell's Creek in Monroe township.

After his marriage, Mr. McGinnis lived on his farm of two hundred and fifty-three acres of land, in section 6, Ottawa township. He prospered in his agricultural efforts. Joseph McGinnis gave his children a good start in life as the consequence, of his frugality, industry and good management. While he made farming his chief occupation, he was a splendid mechanic, and to some extent had been successful in various other lines. Although Mr. McGinnis had always been prosperous and able to have all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, he had never ridden on a steam railroad; had never been out of the county in his life, and had never played a game of cards or taken a drink of whisky. He believed that eternal vigilance is the price of success, and that the saving of time and money, in addition to his other habits, had proved their value.

Joseph and Mary (Kraft) McGinnis were the parents of three sons: Aaron, Elmer and William. Aaron was born on June 4, 1876, on the farm where his father lived. In 1899, he married Daisy Ury, who was born in Pleasant township, and who is a daughter of Christ Ury and wife, who are still residents of Pleasant township. Aaron lives on a farm of his own in section 7. He is the father of four children: Lillian, Ida, Clifford and William Nelson. Elmer was born on July 10, 1879, on his father's farm, was educated in the district schools of his home neighborhood, as were his brothers, and on December 27, 1907, married Mabel Tingle. She was born in Liberty township, in this county, and is a daughter of Cloyd and Catherine (Bell) Tingle. Elmer McGinnis and wife are the parents of three children, Alta, Lucile and Mary Catherine. They live in section 6, of Ottawa township. William N., the youngest son, died at the age of twenty-one. The mother of these children died in the autumn of 1905.

Joseph McGinnis was a broad-minded man with a refreshing philosophical turn. He was possessed of a good, clean character, and never used pro-

fane language. He believed in a supreme being, who guides and controls all, although he was not a member of any church.

Although not a man of any established religious faith, he lived a useful life and did his duty in the community where he lived with the fearlessness of a man who follows his convictions. He was a man whose counsel was sought by those who were looking for wise guidance. Joseph McGinnis died on January 29, 1915.

JOHN D. BUESCHER.

Among the active, alert and progressive farmers of Putnam county, Ohio, is John D. Buescher, of Ottawa township.

John D. Buescher was born on September 2, 1857, about a mile from Ottawa, Putnam county, the son of John Henry and Elizabeth (Fenger) Buescher. John Henry Buescher was born on December 23, 1832, in Hanover, Germany, and came to America at the age of fourteen with his mother and step-father, Mr. Aversman. The latter bought a farm just north of the Findlay branch of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad and just west of Blanchard river. In 1845, when the family came to America, Putnam county was a new country, the land was all timber and Mr. Aversman first erected a log cabin, where John Henry Buescher grew up and spent a number of years on this place. He married Elizabeth Fenger, who was born in Germany and came to this country, in 1835, with her parents. John H. Buescher's step-father started the grist-mill at the east edge of his farm on the Blanchard river, the first mill in this part of the country. He was also a pioneer veterinarian. He was killed in the mill.

John Henry Buescher spent his boyhood on the farm, where John D. Buescher now lives. As a young man, he helped to build the canal, and saved his earnings, which were invested in a farm, one and one-half miles east of Ottawa. After his marriage, the young couple took up their home on the new farm. About one-half acre was cleared and there was an immense amount of labor involved in clearing the land and burning timber, so that crops might be raised. There was almost no sale for timber then.

On this pioneer farm, in a log cabin, John D. Buescher was born. He lived there until thirty years of age. When John D. was twenty-eight, his father bought the farm where the family had first settled, it having passed out of the family's possession before then. John Henry Buescher bought it at a sheriff's sale. He died on February 28, 1902, at the age of sixty-nine.

He was a life-long farmer and was possessed of a mind of a turn of an inventive genius. At one time he patented a gate for which he was offered two thousand dollars and forty acres in land.

John D. Buescher was married on October 12, 1887, to Jane Marie Hoffman. She was born northeast of Ottawa and is the daughter of Ferdinand and Catherine (Feldman) Hoffman. Ferdinand Hoffman was born in Germany on September 8, 1832, and came to Putnam county in 1835, with his parents, Henry Hoffman and wife, who located at Glandorf, just west of Cranberry creek, where the boy lived until fourteen years of age, when he went to Cincinnati and worked five years in a printing office. He returned to Glandorf, and, before he was twenty-one, married Catherine Feldman. She was born in Glandorf, Germany, in 1832, and when six weeks old, came to Glandorf, Putnam county, with the second set of colonists from Glandorf, Germany. Her parents located in Glandorf and spent their lives there.

For twenty years after his marriage, Ferdinand Hoffman lived on the farm northeast of Glandorf and then he moved to Pleasant township, where he lived the rest of his life. About two years before his death, he bought a home in Glandorf, improved it, but persistently said he would never get to live there. He did not. He died on the farm, February 19, 1905, at the age of seventy-two. Since his death, his widow has lived in the home in Glandorf.

On the day after John D. Buescher and wife were married, they moved to the farm, which he has farmed since, where they now live and where his father had been reared. His house was new then, but he has since added to it and remodeled it until now it is very large and commodious. In 1894, he built a splendid barn with a slate roof, the name of the owner and the date of its erection being shown by the color of the slate.

In 1904, he engaged in the hardware business in Kalida, which he continued for only six months. Although the business was successful, he found that he could not conduct it and the farm also, so he gave up the business and stayed on the farm.

In April, 1910, Mr. Buescher moved to Lima and engaged in the glove manufacturing business, being in that business about two years, but, as a result of causes over which he had no control, he lost heavily. He followed the carpenter trade in Lima for a time. After three years off the farm he moved back and has lived there since that time.

John D. and Jane Maria (Hoffman) Buescher are the parents of five children, John Henry, Frederick Albert, Catherine Luella, Louis Joseph and Mary Hildegard. John Henry married Helen Krathwohl and lives at Ft.

Wayne, Indiana. They have two children, Lewis Henry and Joseph Christian. He is employed in the office of the Domestic Coal Company of Fort Wayne, and is a graduate of the Rensselaer College at Rensselaer, Indiana, and also of the International Business College at Fort Wayne; Frederick Albert graduated from the school at Glandorf and attended college at Rensselaer. While there he developed an unusual ability, both as a baseball and basket-ball player, and is well known in his own county and the counties surrounding. During the flood of 1913, Frederick Albert, then living in Lima, helped to organize a relief committee of young men in Lima and loaded a car with provisions and boats and brought them to Ottawa and did heroic work in rescuing and succoring those in distress; Catherine Luella attended the Glandorf schools and took five years in music. She is a talented musician. She graduated from the Ottawa Business College and for a time was head stenographer in the offices of Moskin Brothers at Lima; Louis Joseph died at the age of two years, and Mary Hildegard is attending high school at Ottawa.

Mr. and Mrs. Buescher live in a splendid brick house of two stories, neat, substantial and heated with steam and equipped with a private lighting plant until recently, when electricity was installed.

Mr. Buescher is an ardent adherent of the Democratic party. He and his family are devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf.

HENRY EDGAR REEDER.

The life history of Henry Edgar Reeder is closely identified with the agricultural history of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, which has long been his home. His life has been one of untiring activity, and has been crowned with a degree of success commensurate with his worthy efforts. He belongs to the very highest type of progressive citizens, and none more than he deserves a fitting recognition among those whose enterprise and ability have awakened the admiration of the community where they live. In all the relations of life, family, church and in the civic life of the community, he has displayed a consistent Christian spirit, and his natural worth has endeared him to all classes of people. His integrity and fidelity have been manifested in every relation, and he is today one of the leading farmers of Ottawa township.

Henry Edgar Reeder was born on August 11, 1875, in Paulding county, Ohio. He is a son of Wesley Clark and Sarah Ann (Pease) Reeder. Wesley Clark Reeder was born in northwestern Ohio, probably Van Wert county,

and was a son of Joseph Reeder and wife, who came from Pennsylvania in an early day and who were of high German ancestry. Sarah Ann Pease was born near Grover Hill, Paulding county, Ohio. Mr. Reeder's parents lived near Grover Hill after their marriage, and when Henry Edgar was an infant his mother died. He was the only child of this marriage, and his father afterward married Mary Jane Stover, and lived a few years in Allen county, after which he moved to Liberty township, Putnam county, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a good carpenter and worked at this trade most of his life. He was also engaged somewhat in farming. His death occurred in December, 1912.

Henry Edgar Reeder lived at home until his marriage on November 19, 1898, to Elmira Guyton. She was born in the northwestern part of Ottawa township, and was a daughter of William and Mary (Burkhart) Guyton. After his marriage Mr. Reeder began farming in Greensburg township, following this occupation until about ten years ago, when he moved to his present home on the Defiance road northwest of Ottawa, at the west line of Ottawa township. Mr. and Mrs. Reeder have one hundred and four acres of land, which is well improved and highly productive. They have one daughter, Elizabeth, born on July 10, 1900. The family are earnest and devout members of the United Brethren church, and contribute liberally of their means to its support.

Mrs. Reeder's father, William Guyton, was born in Maryland and came to Putnam county in 1837 with his parents, Vincent and Anna (Davis) Guyton. They located in the northwestern part of Ottawa township in the early days, having begun life in the dense forest in a log cabin home. William Guyton's wife, who before her marriage was Mary Burkhart, was born in Holmes county, Ohio, and came, about 1840, with her parents, John and Magdalena (Harder) Burkhart, to this county. After the marriage of William Guyton he and his wife made their home where Mr. and Mrs. Reeder now live. They were well-known people in this community. Mrs. Reeder is one of six children: Angeline, the wife of Solomon Myers; Orlando, of Ottawa township; Mary Ann, the widow of George Werth; Elizabeth, the wife of Jacob Prowant; one who died in infancy, and Mrs. Reeder. William Guyton died in 1899, while his widow survived him until 1907.

Mrs. Reeder's grandfather, Vincent Guyton, entered the land from the government, and conducted a country tavern on the Defiance road, just east of the line between Ottawa and Greensburg townships. This property has never been owned by any one outside the family. After the death of Vincent Guyton, it was owned by his son, and is now owned by his granddaughter, Mrs. Reeder.

BERNARD J. LAMMERS.

In this century, when every modern device for farming is attainable, and when success depends, for the most part, on the wise management of the farm, it is hard to realize the handicap of the farmer of the last century, when farming implements were so crude and so much depended upon mere manual labor. But these early farmers were willing to toil incessantly for success. One of the most successful farmers of this period, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, was the late Bernard J. Lammers, who was born on April 29, 1839, in Bochhold, Westphalia, Germany, and who died in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, July 1, 1914.

Bernard Lammers was the son of Bernard Lammers and wife. At the age of eighteen he came to America and here joined his brother, Henry, who lived and died on the northern edge of Ottawa township, Putnam county, where the lad worked out until he was married.

When about twenty-four years old he married Theresa Recker. She was born in Glandorf and grew up south of that place, where her parents were early settlers. Before his marriage Bernard Lammers had bought forty acres, and after which time he made his home there and spent the rest of his life in the middle of the north half of section 2 of Ottawa township. His land was all wild wood, dense thickets and ponds, when he came in possession of it, but he cleared and improved it.

Two children were born to his first marriage, Henry J. and Katie. Katie married Theodore Meyer and lives in Toledo, and Henry J. lives in Liberty township near the old home. The mother of these two children died in October, 1870.

In April, 1871, Mr. Lammers married Mary Verhoff, who was born at Glandorf, the daughter of Francis and Ann (Kremer) Verhoff. Francis Verhoff was born in Prussia and while a boy came to America, but his parents spent all of their days in the old country. In this country Francis Verhoff learned the blacksmith trade, at Maumee, and later came to Glandorf, where he married Anna Kremer. She was born in Prussia, the daughter of Theodore Kremer and wife, and came to America with her parents, who located on a farm near Glandorf. After his marriage Mr. Verhoff continued blacksmithing for many years and also engaged in farming.

After the second marriage of Bernard Lammers he bought more land until he owned one hundred and twenty acres, where he built a nice big house, with handsome cedar trees around it, in Ottawa township. Here he lived

until his death. To his second union were born seven children, of whom three died in infancy. The four living children are Frank J., Mary, Theresa and J. Bernard. Frank J., who married Katie Weis, lives on a farm in the southern part of Liberty township and has four children, Waldo, Raymond, Luella and Gilbert; Mary, who married Frank Drerup, lives in Texas and has a family of children; Theresa, who married August Meyer, lives at Sheppard, Michigan, and has five children, Albert, Ida, Alphonse, Raymond and Florence. J. Bernard, the youngest son, was born on November 22, 1874, and is now farming the home place. He married Lucy Weis and has two children, Clara and Urban.

The late Bernard Lammers was a man who loved his home and family exceedingly, and farming, his vocation in life, was always a great delight to him. The Lammers family are highly respected residents of Ottawa township and interested in every good work which concerns the public. They are devout members of the Catholic church at New Cleveland.

JOHN KLAUSING.

The biographies of successful men are instructive as guides and incentive to those whose careers are yet to be made. The examples they furnish of patient purpose and consecutive endeavor, strongly illustrate what is the power of each to accomplish. John Klausing is a conspicuous example of one who has lived to good purpose and who has achieved a definite degree of success as a farmer and stockman. He is a man well known in the community where he resides and a man who is universally respected for his many good qualities.

John Klausing was born in 1847, in Cincinnati, the son of Henry and Gertrude (Uphaus) Klausing, the former of whom was born in Hanover, Germany. Henry Klausing was married in Hanover, Germany, to Gertrude Uphaus, about seventy-five years ago, they moved to America, landing at Baltimore, from which place they came to Cincinnati in wagons drawn by six horses. The men walked beside the wagon on the overland journey and the party camped along the way at various points. In the spring of 1860, they moved to Ottawa. Henry Klausing was a blacksmith, but after arriving in Putnam county, he purchased a farm and lived upon it for three years. He then purchased a blacksmith shop at Glandorf, where he lived until his death. He died on March 28, 1886, at the age of sixty-seven.

John Klausing lived with his father until he was about seventeen years old and learned the carpenter trade and worked at it for about four years.

John Klausing was married on January 18, 1871, to Mary Magdalene Leopold, who was born in Glandorf on October 16, 1849, the daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth (Siemer) Leopold, the sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

After Mr. Klausing's marriage, he followed teaming and, subsequently, took a contract for building the first gravel road at Glandorf. He also farmed a part of the time. About twelve years after his marriage, he moved to a farm of seventy-seven acres inherited by Mrs. Klausing, located two and one-half miles northeast of Ottawa. They have lived on this farm since that time. Mr. Klausing now owns about two hundred acres of land.

To John and Mary Magdalene (Leopold) Klausing ten children have been born, William, Frank, Joseph, Henrietta, Elizabeth, Henry, Philomena, Elida, Frances and Theresia. William married Frances Kilm, of Leipsic, and has a harness store in Ottawa; Frank married Frances Bohr and lives on the farm next to his father. He and his wife have four children, Alfred, Cletus, John and Louise; the sketch of Joseph is given on another page of this volume; Henrietta is the wife of John Bohr and lives two miles north of her father. They have six children, Alphonse, Joseph, Frank, William, Gertrude and Louise; Elizabeth is the wife of Ben Klausing, who is very distantly related to her by blood kinship, and they live near Delphos. They are the parents of three children, Carle, Frank and Bernard; Henry married Katie Schmenk and lives between Leipsic and Belmore. They are the parents of four children, Clarence, Leonard, Richard and Dorothy. Leonard and Richard, aged fourteen months and two years and two months, respectively, were killed while playing on the trolley line in front of Mr. Klausing's home, June 13, 1913; Philomena is the wife of Joe Clements and lives at Delphos. They have five children: Frank, Magdalena, Henrietta, Frances and Gilbert; Elida is the wife of Ben Kruse and lives one mile east of her father's home. They have two daughters, Mildred and Elizabeth; Francis is the wife of Frank Kruse and has one daughter, Agnes. They live about one mile north of Ottawa, and Theresa is the wife of Edward Lammers and lives in the southern part of Liberty township.

John Klausing has been prominent in politics in Ottawa township for many years. He served as school director for eighteen years and then refused to accept the position any longer. For a time he was trustee of Ottawa township, and, still later, was assessor for a period of nine years. The Klausing family are all members of the Catholic church at Ottawa and are interested

in its many activities. Mr. and Mrs. Klausing have lived to see their family grow up and marry and to become useful members of society. In their declining years, they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have lived to good purpose, and that they have reared a family who respect them, and they are honored in return by the people in the neighborhoods where each live.

HENRY HALKER.

Germany has furnished thousands of good citizens to the state of Ohio, and Putnam county, especially, has been fortunate to count these people as a part of her body politic. The descendants of the early German settlers of Ohio, are characterized by the same thrift and economy which made their fathers the leading farmers and business men of the various communities in which they settled. Henry Halker, one of the leading farmers and stock men of Ottawa township, Putnam county, is a worthy son of one of its early German settlers, and during his life of more than forty years in the county, he has so conducted himself as to win the universal commendation of his fellow citizens.

Henry Halker was born on September 20, 1869, south of Glandorf, where he now lives. He is a son of William and Louise (Vogeding) Halker, the former of whom was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, in 1818. He came to America at the age of twenty-one and lived first at Cincinnati. He was married in that city to Louise Vogeding, who was born in Germany, and after her marriage lived for a time in Cincinnati, and then came to Glandorf, Putnam county, and settled on a farm in Ottawa township, where they lived until death. For further particulars, the reader is referred to sketch of George Halker, subject's brother, found elsewhere in this volume.

Henry Halker grew to manhood on the farm where he now lives, south of Glandorf, assisting his father with the farm work and thus learning early in life all the fundamental principles of agriculture.

In October, 1900, Mr. Halker was married to Minnie Recker, who was born about one mile south of Glandorf, and who is a daughter of John Henry and Pauline (Kahle) Recker, the former a native of this county, born south of Glandorf, in Ottawa township, in a log cabin, and was a son of Nicholas Recker and wife, who were early pioneers of the county. Pauline Kahle is a sister of Ignatius Kahle, whose sketch, found elsewhere in this volume, tells of her family history. When Mrs. Halker was seven years old

the family moved to a farm east of Kalida, where her parents lived the remainder of their lives.

After his marriage, Mr. Halker, the subject of this review, moved to the farm upon which they now live and have since remained. Mr. Halker has been a life-long farmer, owning one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land and is a progressive citizen in every respect, kind and loving to his family, and honored and respected in turn by them.

Henry and Minnie (Recker) Halker are the parents of three children: George, Mary and Loretta, all of whom are living at home. The Halker family are all faithful and earnest members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. Henry Halker is a man who has devoted his life energies to the happiness and comfort of his family. He is public-spirited in the best sense of the word, but his first consideration has always been his wife and children, to whom he is intensely devoted.

FRANK WILLIAM WALLEN.

One of the interesting histories which might be written concerning the settlement of Jennings township, is that dealing with the period when that part of the country was a wilderness. Then it was that many young couples migrated from the east and south, and started their own family firesides, sometimes too near the camp fires of their Indian neighbors. Among those who acquired land from the government were the ancestors of Frank William Wallen, who still lives where his forefathers settled when they came from Kentucky, at a very early date. Forty-seven out of the eighty-nine acres, which he owns, have been in the Wallen family ever since they were obtained from the government. So that would constitute Mr. Wallen what we call "an old settler," a term unknown in the old country.

Frank William Wallen was born in Jennings township on December 7, 1843. He is the son of Isaac and Catherine (Nottoff) Wallen, the former of whom came from England to the United States, and at first settled in Kentucky, then migrated to the township which is still his home. All this happened when Isaac was a very small boy, his parents having been married in Putnam county. Two children were born to Isaac and Catherine Wallen, one of whom died in infancy, the other becoming of such prominence as to have his life merit a biographical sketch in this volume. After the death of Mrs. Wallen, mother of Frank W. Wallen, in 1843, the father married for

his second wife, Miss Margaret Keller. To them were born two children: Daniel, who is now deceased, and Lucretia, who became the wife of Robert Seibert, of Lima. The father of Mr. Wallen lived until 1849, having followed the occupation of farming all of his life. He was a faithful member of the United Brethren church.

Mrs. Wallen then married a Doctor Carter, and their family consisted of four children, two of whom are deceased. Moses is now living in Putnam county, and Mary became the wife of Benjamin Seibert. The mother died about 1904, and Doctor Carter passed away in 1911.

Although the mother of Frank W. Wallen married a Protestant, she herself was a Catholic. She was born in Germany, and came to this country with her parents. Her father was Frank William Nottoff, and when he arrived in this country, he settled first in Glandorf. Later, he moved to Ft. Jennings and lived there the remainder of his days. Her mother's name was also Katherine. Three children, besides Katherine, made up this family. They were Barney, Jasper and Theodore, Katherine being the youngest. After the death of Mrs. Wallen's grandfather, her grandmother married Joseph Meyer. The son born to them, Joseph, served three months in the war.

At the age of twenty-six, that is, in 1869, Mr. Wallen was united in marriage to Miss Mary K. Slottman, in the month of November. Theirs was the good fortune to have the regulation large family so common in those early days, for to them were born eleven children, ten of whom are living today, Frank lives in Jennings township; Katherine married Henry Kritmeyer, and moved to Monterery township; William makes his present home in Bentley Bay county, Michigan; Amelia, who became the wife of John Weighart, lives in Jennings township; Joseph lives in Rushmore, Ohio; Anna, the wife of John Dahling, is living in Delphos, Ohio; Sophia died at the age of twenty-two; Minnie, the wife of Edward Shoemaker also makes her home in Bentley Bay county, Michigan; Caroline, wife of William Dahling, lives in Jennings township; Barnard, who was born on March 12, 1895, and his brother, August, have charge of the farm, and August, the youngest member of the family, was born on June 30, 1897.

The farm which is the present home of Mr. Wallen and his two sons, is located in section 34, northeast of Ft. Jennings, about two and one-half miles. Like their more enterprising neighbors, these energetic farmers have had a high ideal for their work, and this ideal has been to raise farm products of a high grade and stock that should reflect credit upon the entire neighborhood in which their farm is situated. And this they have succeeded in doing. Their

land is all improved, which, considering the fact that it was a wilderness once, speaks well for the thrift and industry of the Wallen family.

In religious matters, the family seems to have followed the example of Mr. Wallen's mother, for all are members in good standing of the Catholic church, their names having been for many years enrolled among the membership of the Ft. Jennings Catholic church. Mr. Wallen is a Democrat. Although he may not have been prominent as an office seeker or office holder, his stanch Democratic principles have had their influence among his neighbors and associates, and when an event or circumstance arises where justice and right are involved, his voice is among the loudest in defense of what he believes to be the true course of action.

In converting a desert land into places fit for habitation, the ancestors of Mr. Wallen were indeed benefactors, and in continuing their praiseworthy work, he and his children have passed on to others the benefits of their labors and industry. Of such may it not be said "They found a dry, barren waste, they left a garden, a fit habitation for the sons of men."

CORNELIUS HUYSMAN.

The subject of this review is a representative agriculturist of Putnam county and is known as one of the alert, progressive farmers of this part of the county. In his efforts he has not permitted himself to follow in the rut in a blind way, but has given considerable thought and done much experimenting, and, therefore, his returns from his enterprising methods have reached a maximum, while at the same time he has directed his course to command the regard and confidence of the people of the community in which he lives. He is referred to as a man entirely worthy of the respect of his fellow men, and has ever advocated those things which tend to promote the welfare of the public.

Cornelius Huysman was born in Monterey township, this county, on April 21, 1850, and is the son of Henry and Nellie (Kortier) Huysman. Henry Huysman was born on October 11, 1811, in Holland, and it was there that he was married. To their union were born nine children: Wilhelmina, died at the age of twenty years; Mary, died at the age of fifty-four years; Aaron, now living in Monterey township, this county; Walter, died in Monterey township in 1892; Henry, died on board ship, age two months; Nellie, married S. Hunsaker, who lives in Allen county, Ohio; Henneche, deceased

wife of Louis Peters; Cornelius, the subject of this review, and Henry, who died in 1900; the last three of whom were born in America.

It was in the fall of 1847 that Henry Huysman, together with his wife and five children previously born to them, left Holland and crossed the Atlantic for the purpose of making their future home in the United States. On their arrival in the city of New York they went by rail to the city of Toledo, Ohio, where they boarded one of the boats of the Miami & Erie Canal Company, and traveled via the canal to the town of Delphos, and settled on a farm in Monterey township, Putnam county. He was a miller by trade, but decided to carry on general farming in this country, which he continued to do until the time of his death, 1894, at which time he arrived in the eighty-second year of his age. His wife passed away just a year previous to his death.

Cornelius Huysman received his early education in the township schools and followed in the footsteps of his father by learning all about farming, and he has continued to farm all his life. In 1873, he was married to Miss Lydia Semer, and to them were born nine children, as follow: Nellie, who lives in Van Wert; Cassia, wife of Fred. Spangler, living in Hillview, Province of Ontario, Canada; Anna, wife of Fred. Rice, and living in Van Wert county; Drickie, wife of Thomas Alspaugh, living in Van West county; John, who resides in Van Wert county; Katie, wife of John Buetner, who lives in Allen county; Emma, deceased at the age of sixteen years; Allen, who lives in Ottoville, this county, and conducts an automobile garage. The mother of these children died on January 21, 1889.

Cornelius Huysman was married a second time, this time to the widow of Edward Semer, her maiden name having been Maria Spangler, and she lived until the year 1889. No children were born to the second marriage. Mr. Huysman's present and third wife was Maria, a daughter of Lemech and Sarah Spangler, and was born in Allen county on August 28, 1863. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, and her mother a native of Fairfield county, Ohio. The father was a farmer in Van Wert county, to which place he moved in 1866, and where he died in 1881. Her mother died in 1885.

Mr. Huysman has devoted nearly all of his life to improving the two hundred acres of land which he owns in this township and besides cutting considerable timber and carrying on general farming, makes a specialty of raising high-grade live stock. He is considered a good judge of stock in this locality and takes great pride in his herds.

A strong advocate of the principles of the Republican party, and, though not active in party matters, the influence of Cornelius Huysman along these lines is felt in the community where he lives. His religious affiliations are

with the Christian Union church, to which denomination he contributes according to his means. Personally, he is a gentleman in every sense of the word, worthy of the confidence of his fellowmen and he is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

SHELBY HARRIS.

In the respect that is accorded to men who have bought their own way to success through unfavorable circumstances, we find an unconscious recognition of the intrinsic worth of character which cannot only endure so rough a test, but gain new strength through difficulties. The gentleman to whom the biographer now calls the reader's attention, was not favored by inherited wealth or the assistance of influential friends, but, in spite of this, by perseverance and wise economy, he has attained a comfortable station in life and has made his influence for good felt in this community where he long maintained his home. Because of his honorable career, it is eminently fitting that he should be accorded a place in the pages of this volume.

Shelby Harris was born on December 14, 1858, in Jennings township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of John and Mary (Huffman) Harris, both of whom were natives of Connecticut, who came to Ohio in pioneer times and settled near Cincinnati. Later, they moved to Putnam county, and settled in Jennings township. Seven children were born to them: William H., Marcus and Mary E., all deceased; George, who lives at Findlay; Daniel, who lives at Muncie, Indiana; Shelby, the subject of this sketch, and Lavina, the wife of George Evans, of Marion, this state. The father of these children, John Harris, died in 1860, and his wife was married, a second time, to Moses Radcliff. To this union, three children were born: M. O.; Minerva, the wife of Henry Sterns; and Granvil, who lives near Mandville, Ohio. Moses Radcliff was a carpenter by trade and was killed about twenty years ago by a saw-mill explosion in Montana. The mother died in 1909.

Shelby Harris received his education in the district schools of Jennings township and performed the usual labor which falls to the lot of the average boy who lives in an agricultural township.

On April 4, 1881, Shelby Harris was married to Anna Stearns, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Croushiner) Stearns, both of whom were natives of Germany, and who came to the United States when they were young. They were married in Ohio and to this union, eleven children were

born, five of whom died in infancy. Those who survived were: Mary, who lives in Leipsic; Anna, the wife of Mr. Harris; Godfrey, who lives in Jackson township; Henry and Philip, both of whom also live in Jackson township; and Frances, the wife of James Claypool, of Monterey township. Mrs. John Stearns died in December, 1914, and John Stearns is still living, being eighty-four years old.

Shelby Harris followed farming and teaming for a number of years. He owns a greenhouse and has been in the floral business for the past fifteen years, except for the past few years, when he has given up the hothouse work and is now engaged in general truck and fruit gardening. Mr. Harris owns a small farm, a well-improved, modern house and other good buildings. He is a man who is highly respected in this community, and has a comfortable income.

Shelby Harris is a Democrat, has served as township trustee of Jennings township for four years, and as president of the school board for the the past eight years. He has also been treasurer of the Ft. Jennings Mutual Telephone Company and the Ft. Jennings Cemetery Association, since 1908. Mrs. Harris was reared a Lutheran, but after her marriage, became a member of the United Brethren church at Pleasant Valley. Later, because there was no United Brethren church in the community where Mr. and Mrs. Harris lived, both have become members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. and Mrs. Shelby Harris and family are well known in Jennings township and are popular among all classes of people. They are highly respected citizens and earnestly devoted to the welfare of their family and to their neighbors.

JOHN F. GEORGE, M. D.

Professional success results from merit. Frequently in commercial life, one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but in what are known as the learned professions, advancement is gained only through painstaking and long-continued effort. Prestige in the art of healing is the outcome of strong mentality, close application, thorough mastery of its great underlying principles and the ability to apply theory to practice in the treatment of disease. Intellectual training, true professional knowledge and the possession and utilization of the qualities and attributes essential to success have made Dr. John F. George eminent in his chosen calling, and he stands today among the skilled and enterprising physicians of Putnam

county, Ohio. He is now engaged in the practice of his profession at Ft. Jennings, and for many years, has enjoyed a large and lucrative practice.

Dr. John F. George was born on July 13, 1867, in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Zeigler) George, the latter of whom was a native of New Orleans and the former a native of Germany. Peter George came with his brother, when he was about fifteen years old, to America, and his brother was about twenty. He learned the baker trade, after coming to America, and settled, eventually, in Philadelphia, where he worked at that trade. He lived in Philadelphia for a time, and, subsequently, came to Columbus, where he also followed his trade. From Columbus, he returned to New Orleans, and was there married on November 12, 1861. He and his wife had eight children, six of whom are now living, Elizabeth, the wife of Joseph Geise, of near Delphos; Mary, the wife of F. J. Schwartzengraber, of Delphos; Dr. John F., the subject of this sketch; Emma, who lives in Delphos with her mother; Celestina, who is unmarried and lives in South Bend, Indiana; Matilda, the wife of Nicholas Schilling, of South Bend; Henry, who died at the age of thirty, and Carrie, who died at the age of twenty-six. Peter George lived in New Orleans after his marriage for a time and followed his trade. Subsequently, he came North and settled in Delphos, and lived there for thirty-three years, or until his death, April 21, 1913. He was engaged in the grocery business during the last years of his life, retiring from that, however, about 1908. His wife is still living in Delphos.

Dr. John F. George received a good public school education in Delphos. He graduated from the Delphos high school with the class of 1885, and then took a commercial course in Dayton, Ohio. He also pursued his business education in Cincinnati, and then clerked in a store for about two years in Delphos. Finally he took up the study of medicine with Drs. Williamson and Reul and was with them for about eighteen months, when he went to Taylor University, near Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and became a student in the medical department. He was graduated from this university, March 8, 1892, and during the following summer, opened an office in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He practiced here for about one year and moved from here to Ft. Jennings in 1893. He practiced at Ft. Jennings for seventeen years and then quit the practice for two years, during which time he traveled for a drug firm. He finally returned to Ft. Jennings and took up his practice again, and now has a large and flourishing practice. He is one of the most highly attested physicians in this section of the country.

Dr. John F. George was married on September 23, 1896, to Mary K.

Hedrick, whose parents are both living in Jackson township. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Association, the Northwestern Ohio Medical Association and the Putnam County Medical Society. He is a man who ranks high in his profession, who has always observed closely the ethics of his profession and who enjoys the confidence of all of his patients.

JOSEPH I. G. MAAG.

Descended from honored ancestry and himself numbered among the successful farmers and leading citizens of Putnam county, Joseph I. G. Maag is entitled to specific recognition in the annals of the locality in which he has been so long identified, and where he has strengthened his hold on the hearts of the people with whom he has been associated. There is not a man in the community who enjoys a larger circle of warm friends and acquaintances, who esteem him because of his high character and business ability.

Joseph I. G. Maag was born in Pleasant township, this county, on July 4, 1879, and is the son of William and Bernadina (Kahle) Maag, whose life record may be found elsewhere in this work under the caption John C. Maag.

Spending his boyhood days under the parental roof of the homestead farm, Joseph I. G. Maag received his early education in the neighboring township schools, and remained with his parents until the age of twenty-one years. On November 14, 1899, he was married to Elizabeth Erhart, daughter of Henry and Bernadina (Barlager) Erhart, after which event he purchased eighty acres from his father for the purpose of establishing a home for himself. The same year he was married he began the erection of his present home and the necessary farm buildings and continued to carry on the business of general farming and stock raising. The original eighty acres was clear with the exception of about twenty acres in standing timber and, in 1912, he purchased twenty acres adjoining, which gives him a total of one hundred acres, the greater portion of which may be put under cultivation at will. Mr. Maag has always been considered a conscientious, industrious and painstaking worker and the splendid appearance of his holdings today indicate the thrift and unceasing energy which he has displayed throughout his life to make a success of agriculture and stock raising. To Joseph I. G. and Elizabeth (Erhart) Maag have been born seven children, named in the order of their birth, as follow: Edwin; Alfred, deceased in infancy; Frankie and Mamie (twins); Rudolph and Adolph (twins), and Adelia Bernadina.

Joseph I. G. Maag has always been identified with the Democratic party, but has never aspired to office and does not actively engage in politics. The entire family are members of the Catholic church in Columbus Grove, to which they contribute liberally in accordance with their means. Personally, Mr. Maag is a man who makes friends easily and knows how to keep them. His sterling qualities for honorable and upright dealings with his fellow men have won for him a permanent place in the esteem of all who know him.

ALFRED A. STARKWEATHER.

This utilitarian age has been especially productive of men of action, clear-brained men of higher resolves and nobler purposes, who give character and stability to the communities honored by their citizenships and whose influence and leadership are keenly discernible in the various enterprises that have added so greatly to the high reputation which Putnam county enjoys among her sister counties of the great commonwealth of Ohio. Conspicuous in this class of men, who reside in Putnam county, is Alfred A. Starkweather, the well-known proprietor of Columbus Grove's large implement store. Mr. Starkweather has built up a large and lucrative business in buggies, implements, threshing machines, gas engines, wire fence, etc., and his business success is due largely to the reputation he has gained for honesty and square dealing.

Alfred A. Starkweather was born on April 20, 1862, at Hillsdale, Michigan, the son of Horace and Mary Jane (Hoisington) Starkweather. Horace Starkweather was born on July 16, 1802, in Onandaga county, New York. He was the son of Thomas Starkweather and wife, both of whom are natives of New England. They came to New York state about 1798, where he was a farmer, and, like the typical New Englander, was a hard-working, industrious man. At this time Rochester was in its infancy and Thomas Starkweather drove forty miles to mill at that place. His son, Horace, the father of Alfred A., grew to manhood in New York state and helped his father clear the old homestead. It is related that when but a small boy he drove an ox team in assisting his father on the farm. Horace Starkweather was married at the age of twenty-four in 1826, after which they moved to Hillsdale county, Michigan, where he engaged in farming. He remained in this county until his death. About 1849 his wife died. She was the mother of seven children: Ira M., who is an attorney and became judge of the circuit court at Flowerville, Michigan; Jonathan H., Eugene,

Horace, Dick and two daughters. Jonathan, Horace and Eugene were soldiers in the Civil War, Eugene and Horace being killed in that struggle. Shortly after his wife's death, Horace Starkweather was married to Mary Jane Hoisington, the daughter of Anson and Elizabeth Hoisington, who were pioneers in the state of Michigan. To this union were born six children: Almeda, deceased, who was the wife of V. F. Musser; Almira, deceased, who was the wife of L. H. Parker; Alva, who married Elizabeth Ord; Elvira A., the wife of W. H. Nuffer, of Los Angeles, California; Judson H., who married Margaret Stone, and Alfred A., the subject of this sketch. The mother of these children died on April 16, 1871, when Alfred A. was nine years of age. The father died at Hillsdale, Michigan, December 16, 1887, at the age of eighty-five.

Alfred A. Starkweather remained at home, attending the common school and helping his father on the farm near Hillsdale, Michigan, until he was twenty-five years old. After his father died he came to Lima, Ohio, where, in 1891, he was married to Carrie Beiler, the daughter of Rev. John and Margaret Beiler, both deceased. Rev. John Beiler was a minister in the Methodist church.

After his marriage Mr. Starkweather took a business course and also studied telegraphy at Ada University, after which time he became a telegrapher for about two and one-half years for the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and then moved to Columbus Grove, where he entered the buggy and implement business. He has continued this business without interruption for about nineteen years, or since the early spring of 1896. Just before entered the present business Mr. Starkweather was engaged for two years in the butcher business.

His wife died on August 26, 1896. She was a good Christian woman and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since her childhood. She was a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, and before her marriage had taught in the public schools of Lima.

Mr. Starkweather was married, a second time, on August 31, 1898, to Mary L. Doty, the daughter of Cornelius and Casander (Guyer) Doty, who were natives of Ohio, but the daughter, however, was born in Illinois. She is a graduate of the common and high schools of Columbus Grove and took several terms of normal work at Ada University, after which she taught in the common and high schools of Columbus Grove for several years.

To Mr. Starkweather, by his second marriage, one daughter has been born, Lucille M., who is now at school.

Alfred A. Starkweather is one of the most prominent business men in this section of Ohio. He is the proprietor of a large mercantile establishment, which has a splendid patronage. He not only keeps on hand and for sale every commodity that is used on the farm, but he has built up a good trade in the sale of automobiles.

Mr. Starkweather is a Democrat and has always been active in the councils of his party, having served as precinct committeeman and later as a member of the county executive committee. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum, Columbus Grove Lodge No. 376, Knights of Pythias, and the Modern Woodmen of America. Alfred A. Starkweather is one of the most prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is treasurer of the church, president of the board of trustees and district steward. For his prominence as a business man and his popularity as a citizen, he is entitled to rank as a representative citizen of Putnam county.

LESTER DUNLAP.

Another of the prominent farmers whose energy, industry and altruism have made Putnam county a good place in which to live, is Lester Dunlap, of Jennings township. It might be said that he only followed the line of least resistance in giving his attention to the cultivation of the soil, his father having been a farmer, if it were not also true that when the moment of supreme self-sacrifice came, and his country needed him, he responded without a thought as to consequences. Engrossed as he was in farming, personal interests gave way when his country called, and he turned his back upon home and loved ones to face what fate had in store for him—honor or death—he knew not which. It is such lives as these that quicken and inspire our own, and too few, indeed, are the records of those thousands, who, though living in comparative obscurity, possess the nobility of character which, in more stirring times, would crown them heroes.

Lester Dunlap, since early manhood, has been either a farmer or a soldier. Born on May 16, 1842, the son of Robert and Louisa (Spain) Dunlap, who were living at the time in Union county, Ohio, he went with his parents to live in Putnam county in 1861. The father, a Pennsylvanian by birth, married Miss Louisa Spain, a Virginian, and they began life together on August 8, 1840, later coming west to Guernsey county.

Robert Dunlap, father of the subject, whose life is here presented,

was born in Pennsylvania, on October 29, 1811. After residence in Guernsey and Union counties, and in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, this family, now numbering five, removed to Jennings township, in the latter county, in 1865, and here they remained on their own farm until the death of both parents. Robert Dunlap passed away at the age of seventy-five, and his wife lived to be eighty-one years of age. The mother of Lester Dunlap began her career on earth, March 8, 1815, near Petersburg, Virginia.

The three children rounding out the happy family life of Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap were: Sibyl, Lester and Almedia J.

Although in need of the services of his son on the farm, Mr. Dunlap believed in education, and gave him advantage of all that the common schools afforded at that time. After leaving school, Lester Dunlap continued in the vocation which his father had taught him, and, in December, 1864, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Young, who settled on a Putnam county farm, about 1858. The children of Mr. Dunlap, by his first marriage, were: William E. Dunlap, who is now a resident of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Jeannette, wife of Lewis Gordon, of Lima; and Rachel, who married John Cowan and lives in Ottawa.

Mrs. Dunlap died on April 28, 1871, and in July, 1873, he married, for his second wife, Miss Rebecca Huffer. The home thus established became the birthplace of eight children, all of whom are living. These are as follow: Anna, wife of E. W. Wells, of Rushmore; Robert, living in Seattle, Washington; George, who lives at home; Mary, who became the wife of Charles Friend, the latter of whom died on April 8, 1914, in her second year at their home in Delphos; Lewis, residing in Jennings township; Marion C. and Charles, who live at home, and Hulda, who is now Mrs. G. C. Ford and whose home is near Paynesville, Ohio.

Mr. Dunlap's farm, in section 15, consists of one hundred and nineteen acres of well-improved land, for its owner has kept abreast with the times in the matter of improvements and the modern machinery which they require. While he retired from active participation in agricultural pursuits, in 1911, he still takes a deep interest in all that pertains to the land and his home. His sons, however, have charge of the farming interests and activities.

In 1864, when the call went out for men to join the army, Lester Dunlap enlisted under Capt. I. W. Patrick, in a regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, a period of over four months. He was assigned to guard and patrol duty in Maryland and in the District of Columbia. He was honorably discharged at Camp Chase, Ohio, on August 27, 1864. He then returned to the farm, where he lived in happiness

and contentment until the death of his wife, who passed away on August 18, 1909.

Mr. Dunlap has been a life-long Republican, and has served his township as trustee, an office he has filled with credit to himself, as well as to the neighborhood which he honored. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Ruel Post No. 95, of Delphos, and no one is more patriotic or more enthusiastic when the war is discussed, or when questions of loyalty are involved. Old soldiers of the type of Lester Dunlap are an inspiration as long as they live and wherever they live. Although no active service may require a test of their loyalty, yet all with whom they come in contact, recognize that should their country's call be repeated, it would find the same ready response in the spirit of the aged as is found in their youth. The step of Mr. Dunlap may be a bit feeble, and the eyes a trifle dim, but the soul of the patriot is there, a soul aflame with the fire kindled at the altar of self-sacrifice when the life of the nation depended upon just such men.

LAWRENCE V. BLUE.

The gentleman whose name forms the caption to this sketch belongs to that class of men who win the battle of life by sheer force of personality and determination, coupled with soundness of judgment and keen discrimination, and in whatever he has undertaken, he has shown himself to be a man of ability and honor, always ready to lend his aid in defending principles affecting the public good, and, though he has been but a few years in this community, yet he has established himself firmly in the hearts of the people and is generally known to be a man of sterling worth, conscientious and considerate, and entitled to the respect and admiration of his fellow men.

Lawrence V. Blue was born in Ayersville, Defiance county, Ohio, on December 20, 1887, and is the son of Dr. N. S. and Henrietta (Brechtbill) Blue. His father was born in Miami county, this state, where he received his early education and later went to medical college, where he studied the required number of years to finish the course and received his diploma as a medical graduate. He began his practice of medicine in Pettisville, Fulton county, Ohio, and after being there for a period of twelve years, he removed to Ayersville, Defiance county, where he continued the practice of his profession for thirteen years and died March 12, 1912. In 1886 he was married to Henrietta Brechtbill, and to them were born two children, Lawrence V. and

Helen, who was born December 7, 1891, and is now the wife of W. C. Imhoff, of Leipsic. Lawrence V. Blue's father was a member of the Knights of Pythias, of Wauseon, Ohio, also the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Free and Accepted Masons, of Defiance, also vice-president of the local medical society and a member of the State Medical Society. His wife survived him and is at present residing in Defiance.

Lawrence V. Blue received his early education in the public schools and later went to Defiance College, where he was a student for some time. After leaving the college from which he graduated with honors, he decided to complete a course in business training, and, therefore, went to the Ft. Wayne (Indiana) International Business College, where he made it a specialty to acquire a complete knowledge of auditing books. On January 11, 1913, he was married to Ethel M. Heater, a daughter of W. W. and Dora (Little) Heater, all natives of Defiance county, and where Mr. Heater is the superintendent of the county schools.

Remaining in the city of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he followed the business of auditing books, for a period of three years, it was here that Lawrence V. Blue opened up and conducted the "Alt Heidelberg" hotel, which he managed for two years. After this, he left for the state of New York, where he was engaged with a large lumber company, in Wanekena, as auditor of accounts. He remained with this company for about a year and returned to Defiance county at the time of his father's death, then, at a later date, came to Putnam county and started a general merchandising store in the town of Rushmore. This store was opened up for business on January 1, 1913, and for the past two years Lawrence V. has enjoyed a good business ever since. It is said that he carries such a varied stock of goods, that the demand for almost any article in dry goods, hardware and groceries can be supplied. To Lawrence V. and Ethel M. (Heater) Blue have been born one child, Mary Elizabeth, whose birthday occurred on November 21, 1914.

Mr. Blue is an active member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge of Delphos, Ohio, and is strongly identified with the Republican ranks and took a very aggressive part in politics in Defiance county before coming to this locality. Both Lawrence V. Blue and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Rushmore, to which congregation they lend their support in accordance with their means. Personally, Lawrence V. Blue is a man whose friendship it pays to cultivate and he is noted throughout this region for his genial disposition and courtesy to all. He is a man of social tendencies, kind, obliging, unassuming and straight-forward and honorable in all the relations of life and is universally respected and popular.

HENRY CALVELAGE.

The record of Henry Calvelage is that of a man who, by his own unaided efforts, has worked his way from a modest beginning to a position of influence in his community. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the systematic and honorable methods he has followed have won for him the confidence of his fellow citizens, of Putnam county, whose interests he has ever had at heart and which he has always labored to promote.

Henry Calvelage was born in Jennings township, this county, on October 14, 1851, and is the son of George and Mary (Hackman) Calvelage, both of whom were born in Germany. The former came to this country when a very young man and made his first place of residence in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, where he was employed as a clerk in a store. He remained in Baltimore until the year 1834, when he decided to leave there and go to a state farther west, and selecting Ohio as a good place to make his future home, settled on a farm in Jennings township, Putnam county, where he engaged in and continued to farm until the time of his death, about the year 1885. His wife came to America with her parents when she was a very young girl, and they settled in Putnam county. It was here that she first met George Calvelage and was afterward married. To their union were born five children, August H., who resides in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana; Henry, the subject of this sketch; Barney, who lives on the old homestead place, and two children, who died in infancy. The mother survived the death of the father for five years and died in 1900.

Henry Calvelage received his early education in the neighboring township schools and remained under the parental roof until about the time of his marriage, which occurred on October 27, 1873, to Caroline Rekart, a daughter of Sigmund and Mary (Discher) Rekart, whose parents were also natives of Germany, and who immigrated to this country when Caroline was but a child. The father died some time ago and is survived by the wife and mother. To the union of Henry and Caroline (Rekart) have been born nine children, August, of Jackson township, this county; Otto B.; Joseph, who runs a blacksmith shop, which he owns in Ft. Jennings, this county, and who is also an engineer by trade; Alex, who died at the age of fourteen; Jacob; Walter P.; Grover H.; Dora and Edward J., all of whom live with the parents, except as otherwise stated. The home place consists of one hundred and sixty acres of fine farming land and which Henry Calvelage purchased outright some years ago, with an idea of making it an ideal farm, and by his constant attention to it, and by well-directed management, has made

himself worthy of the title, "successful man." A number of substantial improvements have been made to the place, including a modern barn and a commodious brick residence. Besides carrying on a general farming business, special attention is given to the raising of Polled Durham and Shorthorn cattle. In this line, Mr. Calvelage is very successful and finds that he can raise this class of stock at good profit.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvelage lead a rather quiet and unassuming life and are highly respected by all their neighbors and acquaintances for the honorable and praiseworthy lives they lead and for their strong moral convictions. Fraternally, Mr. Calvelage is a member of the Order of Eagles, Lodge No. 471, Delphos; he is an active supporter of the Democratic party, and has held the office of township trustee for a number of years. Besides his farming interests, Mr. Calvelage takes a deep interest in financial matters and is one of the stockholders in the Commercial Bank of Delphos, Ohio. Personally, he is a man of pleasant manners, genial disposition, and is well liked by everyone in the community.

PIERCE DAVIS.

We who were born in America, have the path made so smooth for us that it is perhaps a little difficult to picture the pioneer struggles. Therefore, is the story of a young man interesting, in whom the desire for success is so strong that he can bid farewell to brothers and sisters, to friends and neighbors, and seek his way to an unknown land and a strange people.

So it was with Pierce Davis. He is surrounded by the family group of six brothers and sisters in the little town in Wales, waiting for the big and wonderful ship that is to take him to America, where, he is quite sure, there is life and fortune for all. Mr. Davis is now living in Putnam county and his present comfortable home and evident prosperity show, even to the practical mind, that dreams sometimes come true.

The fact that both of his parents were dead may have had something to do with the young adventurer leaving home, for from the time he was three years old, he was cared for by his father and brothers and sisters, for his mother, Elizabeth (Williams) Davis, passed away at that time. The father, Pierce Davis, Sr., lived until his namesake was twenty-four years of age, the latter having been born in 1842, and it was the year of his father's death when this son came to America. This was in the spring of 1866. The brothers and sisters, six in number, remained in Wales all of their lives.

Besides making the long journey from Wales, Mr. Davis has been somewhat of a traveler in the country of his adoption. Franklin county, Ohio, first attracted his attention when he became a resident of the United States, and here he remained for about a year, working in Columbus. Then he migrated to Putnam county, buying fifty-five acres in Sugar Creek township. These he worked hard to develop and improve for six years, at the end of which time his nomadic tastes, as well as the prospect of bettering himself, caused him to sell out and go to Kansas and Texas. He traveled about for some time in the agricultural districts, looking over the land with the intention of buying and making this section his future home. But like hundreds of others who have left Ohio to find permanent residence in other localities, he returned thoroughly contented to spend the remainder of his days in the Buckeye state. This explains the fact that one hundred and twenty acres of splendid farm land in the county, now under consideration are owned by Mr. Davis. Being of a progressive turn of mind, Mr. Davis has equipped his valuable property with modern improvements, including comfortable, well-planned buildings, scientific ditching facilities and up-to-date tiling. His personal equipment for these and similar activities is a common-school education which he received in Wales. Knowing the Welsh to be a thorough, painstaking people, it is safe to assume that the training he received in the country of his birth was the equivalent of a similar school period spent elsewhere.

Mr. Davis is an advocate of good roads and does not look to the township for assistance, but often has done the hauling and grading at his own expense.

It must not be supposed that all of these years comprised a solitary life for the man concerning whom this is written. Some time previous to 1873, he met Anna Roberts, for it was in that year that he became her husband, the marriage ceremony being performed in Putnam county. Like her husband, Mrs. Davis was born in Wales, in December, 1842, and had come to New York while still young. Later, she came West and lived in Columbus for a while, and then removed to Putnam county. Up to the time of her death, in August, 1897, Mrs. Davis was a prominent and well-beloved member of the Congregational church, and never tired of giving her time and her means toward the upbuilding of the church she loved.

Five children were born to Pierce and Anna (Roberts) Davis, and all are living, Evan P. lives in Rushmore; Walter, the second son, resides at home, and with his two younger brothers, Leonard A. and Edward, looks after the farm interests, and Jennie also has remained with her father.

Mr. Davis, politically speaking, is a Republican. He seems to be content to allow others to hold offices, while he expresses his political convictions through the ballot, nevertheless his opinion is often sought by those who appreciate the fact that, although not in public office, here is a man with decided convictions which are worthy of respect and consideration.

All of the members of this family, it is interesting to note, have always been affiliated with the church in which their mother worshipped. As the Congregational denomination is not found to be a strong church in rural communities, especially in the West, this incident offers evidence of the fact that both Mr. and Mrs. Davis chose always to do their own thinking, whether in matters pertaining to politics or religion, or in the other concerns of life. It may be for this reason that their home in section 14, of Jennings township, was known for its genial family life, its hospitality and its wholesome idealism.

It is not necessary, therefore, to add that in the neighborhood which was the home of the Davis family for so many years, they stood out among their associates as a little group whose lives it was well to emulate?

ANTON HOEHN.

The free, out-of-door life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterizes true manhood and no truer blessing can befall a boy than to be brought up in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring labor of the fields. Anton Hoehn has followed his vocation as an agriculturist from his early youth, and today, is regarded a success in this line by his fellow citizens. The community in which he lives is indebted to him for the good influence he has wielded and for his willingness to assist in every progressive movement that has for its goal the material advancement of mankind in general.

Anton Hoehn was born on February 7, 1861, in Monterey township, this county, on his present farm. He is the son of Frank and Anna (Marschell) Hoehn. His father was born in Byrne, Germany, and came to this country when a very young man, first locating in the city of Cincinnati, where he worked for a number of years. It was in that city that he married Anna Marschell on April 30, 1849, and continued to reside there. In the year 1858 he decided to settle on a farm, then removed to Putnam county, where he purchased a tract of land consisting of ninety-five acres, in Monterey town-

ship, and which remained his homestead until the time of his death, July 27, 1903. In addition to farming, Frank Hoehn devoted a portion of his time to weaving, which trade he had learned, and which proved profitable to some extent. By the first marriage, there were born the following children: Mary K., on February 15, 1850, died on July 6, 1851; Johannes, August 22, 1851, died on August 1, 1853; George, October 1, 1853, deceased; Henry, September 27, 1855, died on March 15, 1863; Johannes Peter, February 3, 1858, died on December 8, 1891; Anton, the subject of this review; Frank Joseph, February 8, 1863. The mother of these children died on February 6, 1865. Frank Hoehn was married, a second time, to Louisa Shoemaker, in Ottoville, and to their union were born the following children: Peter, August 19, 1866, who lives in the state of Michigan; Joseph O., March 8, 1868, died in April, 1873; Henry, March 8, 1873, who lives in Michigan. The mother of these children passed away on April 26, 1887, and the father, as before mentioned, died on July 27, 1903.

In the public schools of Ottawa, Anton Hoehn received his early education and remained with his parents until about the time of his marriage, May 3, 1887, to Margaret Kulhameck, a daughter of Johan and Anna Kulhameck, who were natives of Germany and died in that country years ago. After his marriage, Mr. Hoehn continued to live on the homestead farm and has ever since resided there and from the death of his father, has added more land to the original purchase, until now the tract consists of one hundred and twenty-four and forty-eight hundredths acres. On this place he has erected new buildings and otherwise improved it until now it is regarded as one of the best farms in this locality. In addition to general farming, Mr. Hoehn interests himself in the raising of high grade stock and it is said that he displays considerable judgment in the selection of his stock. To Anton and Margaret (Kulhameck) Hoehn have been born the following named children: William, on May 20, 1888, who graduated from the high school in Ottoville and later married Mary Lising. They live in Lima, Ohio; Joseph H., July 26, 1889, who graduated from the high school in Ottoville and now lives at home; Mary K., July 3, 1891, also a graduate of the same school; Frank O., October 6, 1892; Antoinette, July 22, 1895; Albert L., June 23, 1899; Lee A., January 13, 1901; Sylvester, December 5, 1904; Rudolph, January 10, 1906, and Gilbert J., March 5, 1909. - All living with the parents, excepting as noted.

Mr. Hoehn has always been an ardent supporter of the Democratic party and for several years has been a member of the local school board. He does not aspire to public office, but lends his influence in all matters pertaining to

the public welfare of the community in which he lives. He is deeply interested in subjects covering modern methods of farming and is always ready and willing to adopt any improved machinery which makes for greater efficiency on the farm. Personally, Anton Hoehn is a man well thought of by every one who knows him and his past honorable and upright career makes him a man worthy of the confidence of those with whom he comes in contact. The entire family are active members of the Catholic church in Ottoville, and to that church they lend their support and contribute according to their means.

JOHN F. OCKULY, M. D.

In the learned professions, success is the result of constant study and consecutive research. In commercial life, one may come into possession of a lucrative business through inheritance or gift, but professional advancements are the result of intellectual discipline, thorough knowledge and the possession and utilization of the qualities and attributes essential to success. Dr. John F. Ockuly has made himself eminent in his chosen calling and stands today among the scholarly and enterprising physicians and surgeons of Putnam county, where he is held in the highest esteem and holds the respect and appreciation of all who know him.

Dr. John F. Ockuly, whose standing among the professional men of his county is undisputed, was born in Cleveland on July 11, 1874, and is the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Miller) Ockuly. The father was born in Rockport, Ohio, in April, 1849, and the mother was born in the state of New York on February 5, 1853. Their marriage occurred at Rockport, Ohio, in November, 1872, to which union were born: John F., the subject of this review; Peter A., who lives in Salina, Ohio; Mary, deceased; George J., who resides in Chicago Junction, Ohio. The father was an enterprising and successful carpenter contractor in his day and followed this business in the city of Cleveland until the time of his death, in the year 1882. The mother survived her husband and is residing in Salina at the present time.

Receiving his preparatory education in the public schools of the city of Cleveland and Ottoville and after finishing the various grades there, John F. Ockuly left for Cincinnati, where he entered the medical department of the University of Cincinnati and where he graduated with high honors in the year 1901. Immediately after his graduation, he began a search for a location wherein the services of a physician would be in demand, and finally de-

cided to settle in Ottoville, Putnam county, and this is where he began the practice of medicine and has continued to reside since leaving college.

On June 5, 1903, John F. Ockuly was married to Mary Miller, daughter of John J. and Margaret (Lauer) Miller, and to their union have been born three sons, Eugene A., on August 9, 1904; Orville E., March 13, 1908, and Edward F., November 29, 1914.

Doctor Ockuly is an active member of the Putnam County Medical Society, the Ohio State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. Being a man of conscientious scruples, gentle and kind in disposition, and thoroughly apprehensive of the sufferings of humanity, he has built up a large practice in this county and is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

Mr. Ockuly is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and affiliated with the Catholic church of Ottoville, where also his family are regular attendants. Doctor Ockuly is a true advocate of the principles of the Democratic party and, though not particularly active in politics, lends an influence that is felt throughout the community. Personally, he is a man whom it is a pleasure to meet and is well spoken of from all sides, and is one who makes friends easily and enjoys a marked popularity among his fellow men. Because of his high personal character and success, he is numbered among the most enterprising and progressive citizens of this community.

JOSEPH SCHUMACKER.

The young men are the hope of this country. Their fathers have done a noble work in clearing the wilderness, draining the soil and building passable roads to market. Their work must be carried forward by the present generation of young farmers, until this land is a golden garden, luxuriant with growing grain and teeming with the good things of the earth. The young farmers feel their responsibility, recognize their opportunity and they are now doing valiant service to carry on the noble work of their worthy forbears. Among the progressive young farmers of Putnam county who are fully alert to present-day opportunities, is Joseph Schumacker, of Monterey township.

Joseph Schumacker was born in Allen county, Ohio, near Landeck, in 1875, and is the son of John and Margaret (Schille) Schumacker. John Schumacker is a native of Putnam county, having been born near Glandorf

on December 24, 1842. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Margaret Schille, was born in Allen county. They have had nine children, all of whom are living, Anna is the wife of Henry Puval; they live in Monterey township; Joseph, the second child, is the subject of this sketch; Lena is the wife of L. Kramer, of Marion, Ohio; Susie is the wife of Anthony Janke; they live in Ottoville; John M., August 7, 1881, married Mary Martin, June 4, 1908, and they have three children, Albert, born on July 9, 1909; Marie, May 17, 1913; Lenhardt, October 4, 1914. John M. Schumacker is a farmer in Monterey township and owns a farm of about forty-three acres; Frank, the sixth child, lives in Jackson township, Putnam county; Henry lives near New Bavaria; Mary is the wife of Dudley Carpenter; they live in Cincinnati; and Rosa is the wife of Clyde Ladon, and lives at McGuffey, Ohio.

John Schumacker, the father of Joseph, followed farming all his life and now lives with his children. He has been an industrious, hard-working man and has well earned the respect which comes to him in his old age.

Joseph Schumacker started in life without any financial assistance from relatives or friends. His first venture was in the saloon business, in which he was in partnership with Joseph Frey. He remained in this business for four months and, during this time, lost thirty-five dollars. He then went to work for Mrs. Joseph Frey, working about one year. Subsequently, he formed a partnership with Henry and Peter Frey and during this year he purchased forty acres of land south of Keiferville, in Putnam county. This partnership continued for about one year, at the end of which time there was a sale, and the farm implements and grain were sold. Mr. Schumacker then learned the carpenter trade and worked at it for two years. In the fall of 1904, Mr. Schumacker was married. Two years after his marriage, he purchased a twenty-acre farm adjoining his original forty acres and rented his father's farm. In 1908 he sold the sixty acres and purchased eighty acres in section 30, southeast of Ottoville. It is known as the Prairie View Stock Farm. Mr. Schumacker has been an extensive breeder of Belgian and Percheron horses. He now owns the following imported horses: "Mistigri Ragnies," registered number 4947, Belgium; mare, "Jeanneton De Bossierre," Belgium, register number 1495; "Volligneur Du Kat," Belgium, register number 6024; and "Janvier," register American number 78673. Mr. Schumacker also owns a thoroughbred Belgium colt. He has improved his place by expensive drainage and has a good house and barn.

In 1904 Mr. Schumacker was married to Fronie Martin, the daughter of William and Mary (Leschman) Martin. To this happy union three chil-

dren have been born, Salome, on April 21, 1906; Norbert, January 27, 1909, and Albertha, September 22, 1911. All of these children are at home.

Mr. Schumacker is a Democrat. Mr. and Mrs. Schumacker and the family are all members of the Catholic church. They are highly respected in Monterey township and Mr. Schumacker is regarded as an enterprising self-made young farmer, well deserving the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

DAVID ROWLANDS.

Perhaps some countries have given of their good citizens to this country to become the bone and sinew of the citizenship of this republic, but no country has given better citizens to the United States than Wales. Welshmen seem to be possessed of a peculiar spirit of thrift which is unlike that characterizing the people of any other country. It is true that success cannot be achieved without unflagging industry, yet the futility of effort is often noticeable in the business world. Somehow the people of Wales and their descendants are able to combine industry and sound judgment and to get splendid success from this combination. Many men give their entire life to toil, yet never acquire a competence, but true Welshmen seem to be able to direct their efforts into fruitful channels. Mr. Rowlands is a man whose work has been supplemented by careful management and today he is numbered among the most successful of the retired business men of Columbus Grove and vicinity.

David Rowlands, himself a native born American, was born on April 2, 1847, at Remsen, Oneida county, New York, the son of Roland T. and Susan (Lloyd) Rowlands, the former of whom was born in April, 1813, in Montgomeryshire, North Wales. He was the son of John Rowlands and wife.

Roland T. Rowlands came to America in the early forties, as a young man and was a pattern-maker by trade. He located at Utica, New York, where he remained about ten years, after which time he came to Columbus, Ohio, and there spent the balance of his life. After coming to this country he continued his trade of pattern-maker and was also an expert mechanic. He was also a splendid musician and possessed of an artistic temperament. He had a fine melodious voice and greatly enjoyed singing. Late in life, he joined the Presbyterian church and was a faithful member. He was a well-read man and was an exceptionally fine reader of the Welsh language. It is related that he made the first printing press for the *Cuawder*, a Welsh maga-

zine organized in the forties at Utica, New York. He died at Columbus, Ohio, September 20, 1899, at the ripe age of eighty-six. His wife, Susan Lloyd, was born in the northern part of Wales, in Montgomeryshire, in 1818. She was the daughter of Richard Lloyd and wife, the former died in Wales and the latter came to America with her children, about 1840, locating at Utica, New York. It seems that the coming of Susan Lloyd to America was flavored with a touch of romance. Her mother brought her to America to escape the ardent attention of David Rowland's father. He, however, was not to be outdone, and in a short time he sailed for America and in due time presented himself in Utica with the natural result that he gained the hand of the fair young woman and she became his bride. After their marriage, they spent a few years in Cattaraugus county, New York, and then removed to Columbus, Ohio. Here, after a most beautiful and useful life, her days ended December 20, 1882. She was the mother of ten children, four of whom died in infancy. The others are: Ann, the widow of Louis Evans; David, the subject of this sketch; Elizabeth, the wife of Patrick Nugent; Thomas, who married Theresa Schall; Ambrose, deceased; and Susan.

David Rowlands, the subject of this sketch, came as a child with his parents to Columbus, where he grew to manhood. Here he learned the carriage painter trade and, at the age of thirty, moved to Columbus Grove, in Putnam county, where he purchased a carriage-painting shop. He conducted this business very successfully for fifteen years, at the end of which time he retired from business and has since been engaged in looking after his private and personal interests.

David Rowlands was married on August 1, 1878, at the age of thirty-one to Marcella Devine, the daughter of Thomas and Eleanor (Reynolds) Devine. Mrs. Rowlands is a native of Columbus Grove and was born on December 14, 1862. She was graduated from the common and high schools at Columbus Grove. Her father, Thomas Devine, was a native of County Donegal, Ireland, born on April 17, 1826, and the son of James and Isabella (Carlin) Devine. Thomas Devine was a farmer and road contractor in Ireland and, after coming to America, at the age of twenty-one, worked for a time at odd jobs. He arrived in New Orleans in 1848, and subsequently, came up the river to Cincinnati and got a job on a railroad. He helped to construct the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad from Hamilton to Toledo and became foreman of construction. Later, he built several miles of the road under contract. He finally settled in Columbus Grove and was given charge of a section of the road. In this capacity, he acted as agent for wood used for fuel on the road from Lima to Toledo. In this way, he became

wealthy and at the time of his death owned four farms in Putnam and Allen counties, besides considerable other property. His wife, Eleanor Reynolds, was born on June 15, 1826, in County Roscommon, Ireland, and came to America with her widowed mother with six other children. They landed in 1829 in Toronto, Canada, and came on to Hamilton, Ohio. Her parents were Patrick and Mary (Burns) Reynolds, the former of whom died in Ireland and the latter in Hamilton, Ohio, about 1860.

Thomas Devine and Eleanor Reynolds were married on February 16, 1851, at Hamilton, Ohio. To this union were born five children, Thomas, Jr.; James R.; Isabella, the wife of Herman Hoffman; Thomas Charles; all of whom are deceased, and Marcella, the wife of Mr. Rowlands.

Since attaining his majority, Mr. Rowlands has been a Republican and has been more or less active in times past in councils of his party. Mrs. Rowlands is a member of the Catholic church and a woman of rare culture and refinement. She is very prominent socially in Columbus Grove and vicinity, as are all the members of the Rowlands family. Mr. and Mrs. Rowlands have been the parents of one daughter, Eleanor Agnes, who is now the wife of Dr. Wiley D. Hickey, of Leipsic. Doctor Hickey and wife are the parents of one daughter, Dorothy.

Mr. Rowlands's splendid success in life has been founded upon sterling integrity, scrupulous business dealings and excellent judgment. These qualities have won him the universal confidence and esteem of the public.

PETER SCHMITT.

Any person who will investigate the facts in the case, will be surprised to learn the great number of people of Germanic nativity and descent now living in the United States. Unquestionably the greatest number of immigrants reaching the shores of the new world come from that nation. There is more Germanic blood in the United States than any other. This being a fact, it is easy to account for the prosperity and morality of this country. Not only that, but it affords an explanation for the love of learning shown by the people of that vast nation. Germany is famous, the world over, for its remarkable universities, for its educated men, for its poets and philosophers and for the industry, patience, intelligence, morality and sturdiness of its citizens. These qualities have been brought to this country by the immigrants and are now a part of our wonderful nation—its progress in

domestic economy, its advancement in every branch of material development and its love of country and home.

Peter Schmitt, the son of John J. and Anna M. (Schlig) Schmitt, was born in Prussia on August 13, 1865. His parents came to the United States in 1868 and settled in Landeck, Allen county, where John J. Schmitt died in 1872. His wife, who before her marriage was Anna M. Schlig, lived there until 1883, when she married Frank Clementz, and then moved to Ottoville.

John J. Schmitt learned the weaver trade in his native land and when he first came to the United States, followed this trade; in fact, he followed it almost all the time until his death. John J. and Anna M. Schmitt had four children, three of whom are living, Peter, the subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of George Breckler, who lives near Defiance; Henry, who died at the age of thirty-two, and August, who lives in Ottoville. One child, Anthony Clementz, was born to the second marriage of Mrs. Schmitt.

Frank Clementz learned the stone mason trade in Alsace, Germany, and came to the United States in 1876, locating at Massillon, Ohio. He remained here until 1880, when he moved to Putnam county and settled on a farm in Monterey township. He followed farming and worked at his trade during the remainder of his life. He died in 1902, and his wife, the mother of Peter Schmitt, died on March 4, 1914.

Peter Schmitt was educated in the public schools of Landeck. He learned the mason trade with his step-father and when the latter retired from active life, in 1894, Peter Schmitt took up the work which his step-father had carried on. He has followed this trade in connection with contracting and building since that time. In 1910, Mr. Schmitt started a cement block factory and has manufactured cement blocks on a large scale since that time. He manufactures blocks for all purposes and he handles all kinds of building material, including cement, gravel and brick. His factory is located in the west end of Ottoville. Mr. Schmitt owns twenty acres of land.

Peter Schmitt was married on May 23, 1894, to Louisa Perrin, the daughter of Joseph and Margaret (Harris) Perrin. Joseph Perrin was born in Franklin county, near Columbus, Ohio. His wife was born in Putnam county, where they were married. Eight children were born to them, three of whom are now deceased, Louisa, the wife of Mr. Schmitt; Louis, who lives in Oklahoma; William, who lives on the homestead in Monterey township; Henry, who lives in Ottoville, and Albert, who lives on the old homestead farm. The parents are both living in Monterey township.

To Peter and Louisa (Perrin) Schmitt eight children have been born,

all of whom are now living, Matilda, on March 25, 1895, who is the wife of Anthony Altenburger, of Ottoville; Joseph P., May 21, 1896, who is at home; Gertrude, October 3, 1897, who is a graduate of the Ottoville high school and a telephone operator at Ottoville; Sylvester A., December 21, 1901, graduated and has just entered high school; Regina, March 1, 1903; Marcella, September 1, 1905; Bertha, December 11, 1909, and Ethel, born on December 4, 1911, all of whom are at home.

Mr. Schmitt is a Democrat, but he has never held office and has never cared for office. The family are influential members of the Catholic church at Ottoville.

HENRY SEHLHORST.

The qualities which have made Henry Sehlhorst prominent and successful in the eyes of the community in which he lives, are no more than those possessed by others of indomitable courage, honesty of purpose and consecutive effort along well-defined lines which ultimately result in a satisfactory degree of success in life. Henry Sehlhorst began his career in a very humble manner and persevering with great determination and by honorable methods has established for himself a reputation, standing for all that is honorable, upright, industrious, economical and exemplary in his every-day life and conduct. For such a man it is quite proper that he be accorded a place among the representative citizens of the county in which he lives since his patience and steadfast integrity show what is in the power of each to accomplish.

Henry Sehlhorst was born on August 7, 1860, in Glandorf, Ottawa township, Ohio, and is the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Hesslink) Sehlhorst. His father was a native of the Province of Oldenburg, Germany, where he lived with his parents until he grew to manhood and, at the age of twenty-two, he immigrated to America, settling first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he followed his trade as a cooper in a large shop of that kind. He acquired a first-class knowledge of this trade in Holland before embarking to this country. While in Cincinnati, he met and married Denia Swafmann, who was also a native of Germany, and to them two children were born, Katherine, who married a Mr. Kline and now resides in Utica, New York, and Josephine, who died in 1902. Henry Sehlhorst remained in Cincinnati for quite a while and then decided to settle in Glandorf, in Putnam county, where he continued his trade, as a cooper, and about six months later, in the year 1857, he lost his wife by death. Two years after this he was married to Elizabeth

Kesslink, a daughter of Hiram and Catherine (Klupenhrosch) Hesslink, both natives of Germany, who came to America, settling close to Glandorf, where Elizabeth was born on March 22, 1841. Hiram Hesslink was married twice in Germany, and by his first wife had two sons and three daughters. The second marriage resulted in the birth of two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth. Mr. Hesslink first settled on a thirty-acre farm, where the town of Glandorf now stands, which he sold, and then bought eighty acres, which is located three miles west of Glandorf, where Elizabeth was born and grew to womanhood and was married.

Henry Sehlhorst, Sr., the father of Henry J., bought eighty acres of land between Ottawa and Leipsic, this county, which he rented out one one-half shares for the purpose of grazing cattle, while he continued his trade as a cooper. He died of lung fever in 1867, about which time he was forty-two years of age. His wife, Elizabeth, proved to be a great helpmeet to him and was ever a devoted wife and a loving mother. To them were born five children, Henry, Jr.; John; Elizabeth, who is the wife of Barney Ellerbrock and resides near Findlay; William, who lives in Liberty township, near Leipsic, and Frank, who lives in Liberty township. Mrs. Elizabeth (Hesslink) Sehlhorst was married, a second time, on May 30, 1868, to John Lammers, and they are living at Columbus Grove. To this last union were born the following children: Barney Lammers, living in Allen county, Ohio; George Lammers, residing in Liberty township; Mary, who is now the wife of Frank Karcher, of Allen county, Ohio; Charley and Wesley (twins), who died in infancy; Josephine Karcher, who is now the wife of Jacob Karcher, of Union township; Filemena Fisel, who is now the wife of Edward Fisel, of Pleasant township; Anna, who married Mr. Basinger and is now deceased; Katharine, who married Frank Krouse and is now deceased, and Jerome Lammers, who is married and lives on a farm in Liberty township.

Henry Sehlhorst, the subject of this review, was married on February 1, 1883, to Mary Folmering, a daughter of Theodore and Bernadina (Sebi-neck) Folmering, the former a native of Germany, and the latter a native of Glandorf, Ohio. They are both living and reside on their farm in Liberty township, but lead a life of retirement from active farm work. They have a son, Henry, who manages the place for them and it is said that he does it with great credit. The old folks celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1910, on the home place. The father is now seventy-nine and the mother is sixty-nine years of age. To them were born six children, Mary; William, who lives in Liberty township; Christena, who is now Mrs. Neese, of Liberty township; Catherine, now Mrs. Buttondick, of Liberty township; Henry, the

manager of the home place, and Elizabeth, who is Mrs. Gerding, of Liberty township. To Henry Schllhorst and wife have been born eight children, Elizabeth, who married Barney Segar and lives in Pleasant township and who have two children, Edwin and Clara; John, who married Minnie Beckman and lives in Pleasant township; Henry, who remains with his parents; William, who married Laura Meyers, have one child, Victor, and live in Pleasant township; Catherine, who lives with her parents, also Frank, Josephine and Agnes, who are at home.

In boyhood Henry Schllhorst spent his days under the parental roof, assisting his father around the place and, whenever possible, would hire out to neighbors. The money obtained for his work he would always bring home and his earnings were a great help to his parents in the early days. For some time he assisted his step-father in clearing a sixty-acre farm in Pleasant township. This required a great deal of ditching and draining before it was put in shape for farming, but, nevertheless, in less than two years, he purchased this tract of land from his step-father for the sum of two thousand dollars. It should be particularly noted that such a purchase must have been the result of great self-denial when it is considered that his services brought such small sums as fifty to seventy-five cents per day. Henry continued to get this land in good shape and erected thereon a log house and barn, which logs were cut from the heavy timber on the place, both the barn and house being lined with clapboards and made very comfortable. From this original sixty acres, he sold twenty oak trees, which brought the sum of forty-five dollars in those days. This was really the beginning of his success as a farmer and, by that close application and fixed determination to win, he began to acquire more land. Six years later he added to his holdings twenty acres and continued to add to the original tract until this farm assumed a total of three hundred sixty acres, being the result of close saving and the exercise of careful management and unremitting attention to work. Most of the money he had made during the earlier days was from cutting timber and hauling cordwood to Columbus Grove. At the present time the greater portion of the land is cleared, but ten acres of timber is yet left standing. A fine residence was erected on the place and the necessary number of farm buildings for proper care of live stock, grain and machinery. Having had considerable experience in timber and knowing the value of such land at the present day, Mr. Schllhorst invested in four hundred and eighty acres of virgin timber land in the state of Missouri, which he obtained for the sum of twenty-five dollars per acre.

All things considered, Henry Sehlhorst has been a decided success in his chosen line of endeavor, and besides, has devoted no small amount of his time toward furthering the interests of his community. He is a firm believer in the economical results to be obtained from the building of good roads and himself helped to have fourteen miles of stone road built in the township.

Personally, Mr. Sehlhorst is a man of pleasing disposition and, having the faculty of making and retaining friends, is regarded as a first-class "mixer" in the community. He is always a booster for the advancement of the welfare of the people and is looked upon as a peaceful man, yet a strong leader when it comes to asserting himself for that which is right and honest. He is an ardent advocate of the principles of Democracy and cast his first vote when Cleveland ran for the presidency for the first time. Though not an aspirant for public office, he served the people for five years as township trustee, 1904-1909, and which office he filled with great efficiency and credit. He is a member of the Catholic church in Columbus Grove. Being one of the organizers of the church, he has contributed most liberally toward its support and takes an active part in church affairs, being regarded as one of the pillars of the institution.

BERNARD ANTHONY RUHE.

Among the strong and influential citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, the record of whose lives have become an essential part of the history of this region, the gentleman whose name forms the caption for this sketch occupies a prominent place and for years has exerted a beneficial influence in the locality in which he resides. His chief characteristics are keenness of perception, a tireless energy, honesty of purpose and motive and every-day common sense, which has enabled him not only to advance his own interests, but also largely contribute to the moral and material advancement of the community.

Bernard Anthony Ruhe was born in Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, on February 28, 1857, and is the son of Joseph and Mary Anna (Whitkamp) Ruhe. His parents were both natives of Germany and were born in about the same locality in that country, where they grew up to maturity and were married. They immigrated to the United States in an early day and first settled on a forty-acre tract of land situated about three miles south of the town of Glandorf, and which land they purchased. The father was a life-long and successful farmer and kept adding to the original forty acres until he accumulated a total of one hundred and sixty acres. His first year

in this county was occupied, in addition to farming, in assisting in building the Miami & Erie canal which was being constructed through this section, and he probably paid for his farm with his earnings from the labor expended on the canal. He died on December 28, 1879, at the age of sixty-seven years, after having lived a most useful and highly industrious life. He was highly regarded by every one who knew him and was particularly noted for his genial disposition and kindness toward his fellow men. His life was one of true devotion to correct principles and his home. He was a liberal contributor, personally and financially, to worthy enterprises, and particularly to the church to which he belonged. Being one of the earliest settlers in this region, he was busy early and late clearing the land, suffered all the hardships of pioneer life and did everything in his power to make a good home for himself and family. In this he was successful in every sense of the word. His death occurred suddenly, while he was attending divine service and while in his seat in the Catholic church at Glandorf, of which he was a member. His funeral was the first to be held in the Catholic church at Glandorf. His wife survived him and died on the homestead farm during the month of September, 1896. To them were born the following named children: Barney, of Liberty township; Theresa (Mrs. Hinken), of Covington, Kentucky; Josephine, who was Mrs. Knueve, now deceased; Henry, who lives on the homestead farm; Catherine (Mrs. Wuort Koetter), who lives in Williams county, Ohio; Bernard, the subject of this review; Joseph and Theodore, both of whom died in infancy. Further information covering the parental history of the subject of this review may be found elsewhere in this work under the caption, Henry Ruhe.

Bernard A. Ruhe spent his early youth on his father's farm, attended the Glandorf schools, remaining with his parents until the age of twenty-three years, when, on November 24, 1881, he was married to Sophia Henke, of Van Wert county, who was a daughter of Christopher and Mary Angeline (Aubke) Henke, both of whom were natives of Germany.

Christopher Henke was born in the town of Osnabruck and came alone to the United States and first settled on a forty-acre farm west of Delphos, which place he purchased while in the employ of the company constructing the Miami & Erie canal, being built through this section at that time. At a later date he removed to Ottoville, this county, where he bought eighty acres and then continued to farm until the time of his death. He was always a supporter of the Democratic ticket, but did not take an active interest in politics. He was a member of the Catholic church in Ottoville. His wife and Mary Angeline Aubke came to this country from Germany with her father,

Frederick Aubke, whose wife died when Mary Angeline Aubke was about twenty years of age. The father and daughter first settled in this country in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was engaged in teaching school in Luckland, near Cincinnati, in which profession he continued for about five years. Mary Angeline remained with her father for about two years and until the time of her marriage to Christopher Henke, when she went to Delphos to live on his farm. To their union were born the following children: Frederick, who died in infancy; Sophia, subject's wife; Henry, who lived near Chardon, Ohio, and died in 1913; Elizabeth, died in 1880; Christian, died about the year 1872; Benjamin, and Philomenia (Mrs. Clayborn), now deceased.

After the marriage of Anthony Ruhe he came directly to his present farm, which then contained eighty acres and belonged to his father, but which Anthony subsequently bought. This place was then described as a heavily-timbered and swampy piece of land, with the exception of seven or eight acres, but Mr. Ruhe began work on it in a most systematic manner and finally, after a complete method of drainage had been installed, the entire place fenced in, the necessary buildings erected, this farm is regarded as a leader in production for general farming and, in addition to tilling the soil, the owner makes a specialty of feeding large numbers of hogs and cattle. He is considered a splendid judge of live stock and takes pride in his possessions. The residence, which was constructed at considerable expense, is modern, commodious and comfortable. To B. Anthony and Sophia (Henke) Ruhe have been born five children, as follows: Frank, who married Elizabeth Kleman, of Liberty township, and who have three children, Alfred, Esther, Dorothy. They are engaged in farming; George, who married Frances Hovest and conducts a farm across the road from his father's place. They have two children, Edna and Amos Joseph; Theodore, who married Lucy Meyers, and farms in Palmer township, near Miller City. They have three children, Frank Elvin, Henry Irving and Elizabeth; Otto Frederick and Philomena, both living with their parents, the former a graduate of the Ottawa (Ohio) Business College, where he received his diploma on March 31, 1907, having taken the general insurance course of instructions. Anthony Ruhe has been active all his life and is a staunch Democrat. He can always be relied upon to be on hand at the call of his party and lends his influence whenever needed. He held office as county commissioner from 1906 to 1911, and has served as a member of the school board for many years, his interest being keen in educational affairs. During his service of two terms as commissioner he, at all times, insisted upon an economical expenditure of public funds. At no time in the history of Putnam county did the taxpayers ever more nearly

get value received for their money than they did while Mr. Ruhe was commissioner. His colleagues, while in this office, were David F. Owens, J. H. Rower, Jacob Bright and Jacob Best. He was a member of the building committee, and chairman of the committee on finance which raised the funds for the erection of the present beautiful and imposing court house in Ottawa, this county. Mr. Ruhe was secretary of the German Mutual Fire Insurance Company for two years and assisted in its organization throughout the county and is still an active member of that association. He also served this community as township assessor for two terms, which office he filled with credit to himself and to the advancement of the material welfare of the community. He is a member of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, to which his family are members also. He firmly believes in the articles of faith taught by his church and is a devout and regular attendant.

FERDINAND HEISING.

It is generally considered by those in the habit of superficial thinking that the history of so-called great men only is worthy of preservation and that little merit exists among the masses to call forth the praises of the historian or the cheers of appreciation of mankind. A greater mistake was never made. No man is great in all things. Many, by a lucky stroke, achieve lasting fame, who before that, had no reputation beyond their immediate neighborhood. It is not the history of the lucky stroke which benefits humanity most, but the long, steady efforts which made the lucky stroke possible. It is the preliminary work, the methods which serve as a guide for the success of others. Among those men of Putnam county who have achieved success by a steady, persistent effort, is Ferdinand Heising, of Fort Jennings, in Jennings township, who is now living retired.

On January 21, 1853, Ferdinand Heising was born in Hanover, Germany. He is the son of Joseph and Agnes (Kleckamp) Heising, who came to the United States and to Putnam county in 1872, where they settled in Jennings township. Two children were born to them, both of whom are living, Ferdinand, the subject of this sketch, and Henry, who is a farmer of Jennings township. Joseph Heising was a laborer. He and his wife are both deceased.

Ferdinand Heising received a good education in Germany, which has helped him greatly since coming to this county. He has always been called upon to serve his township and his community in many ways. He has been

clerk of the village of Ft. Jennings for the past twenty years and is also township clerk, a position which he has held for fifteen years. He came to the United States and Putnam county in 1870 and engaged in the saw-mill business. He was in this business for thirty-four consecutive years, retiring about seven years ago.

On October 13, 1875, Mr. Heising was married to Margaret Kramer, a daughter of Lawrence and Magdalena Kramer, both natives of Germany, who came to the United States and Putnam county in an early day. Lawrence Kramer was a farmer and both he and his wife are now deceased.

Eight children have been born to Ferdinand and Margaret (Kramer) Heising, seven of whom are still living, Mary, the wife of Joseph Runser, of Kingsley, Michigan; Frank, who lives at Grand Rapids, Ohio; Agnes, the wife of George Brenner, of Ft. Jennings; Christina, the wife of Alfred Best, of Delphos; Clara, who is at home; Mathias, who lives at Ft. Jennings; Joseph, who is a mechanic of Toledo; and Helen, who died at the age of thirteen.

Mrs. Ferdinand Heising passed away on April 15, 1911. She was a devoted wife and loving mother and her death is keenly mourned by her husband and children.

Mr. Heising is a Democrat. He and his family are members of the Catholic church at Ft. Jennings and are prominent in the affairs of this church, contributing liberally to its support. Because of his splendid training for public service, Ferdinand Heising is a man who is very well known in Jennings township and he has always been regarded as a leader in this community. He has won a satisfactory measure of success by steady and persistent efforts and fairly merits the esteem and confidence imposed upon him by his fellow citizens.

WILLIAM TANNER MAPEL.

It is an axiom demonstrated by all human experience that industry is the key to prosperity. Success comes not to him who idly waits for fortune's favors, but to the faithful toiler, whose persistent industry and sleepless vigilance takes advantage of every circumstance calculated to promote his interest. Such a man is the gentleman whose name forms the caption of this biographical review, a man well known and a highly esteemed citizen of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. William Tanner Mapel is a young farmer who has made a splendid success in a comparatively short period and

this success he owes to faithfulness to duty and a strict adherence to a fixed purpose. These always do more to advance a man's interests than wealth or advantageous position. He is known as a young man of strictly honest business principles, industrious, pleasant and agreeable.

William Tanner Mapel was born on May 13, 1887, at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of William Thrapp and Margaret (Tanner) Mapel. William Thrapp Mapel was born at Gilboa, Ohio, on August 1, 1846, the son of Simon and Rachel (Thrapp) Mapel. William Mapel received his education during his early years at Gilboa, and, at the age of fourteen, was taken out of school and put to work in his father's store. Here he began the acquisition of that practical business education of which he made such good use all of his life. He continued to be thus employed until after the Civil War. William Mapel enlisted at the outbreak of the war, in the Seventy-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the famous Sherman's march from Atlanta to the sea. After his discharge, he returned home and again engaged in business with his father, coming with him and other members of the family, to Columbus Grove, March 10, 1868. He married Margaret Tanner, the daughter of William T. and Phoebe (Stump) Tanner. William T. Tanner was born near Coshocton, Ohio, on March 16, 1812, and came to Muskingum county, in 1835, at the age of twenty-three years. He married Phoebe Stump, the daughter of his employer, February 18, 1836. She was born on September 11, 1814, and died February 18, 1881. Her parents were Leonard and Phoebe Stump, who immigrated from Virginia in 1805, to Muskingum county, Ohio, settling near Irvile. To William T. Tanner and wife were born eight children, James E., Mrs. Mary A. Springer, Martha, William, Oscar W., Mrs. Rachel A. Marshall, Mrs. Margaret Mapel and Mrs. Malinda Drake. William T. Tanner was a Democrat and cast his first vote for Martin Van Buren in 1836. He was county commissioner for seven years, infirmity director for six years and held various other township offices. He was a member of the board of directors at the time the new infirmity and court house were built. He was a member of Lafayette Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, for over forty years. After his wife's death, he was married, a second time, on April 11, 1882, to Mrs. Mary E. Tanner.

William Mapel and wife were the parents of three children, Frank, who died at the age of two years; Mrs. Leona Tanner Busch, of Columbus Grove, and William Tanner, the subject of this sketch. William Mapel was an energetic business man and successful in acquiring property. He was systematic

in all that he did and far-seeing in all of his plans. He pushed vigorously and insistently those interests in which he was engaged and success always crowned his efforts. He was a man of somewhat nervous temperament and quick of speech, but kind of heart and loyal to his friends. Many sought his counsels and all found a friend. He was fond of children and devoted to those of his own household. He was a member of Columbus Grove Grand Army of the Republic Post, and of Rufus Lodge No. 364, Free and Accepted Masons. After the death of his father, Simon Mapel, in 1891, he became interested in the present Exchange Bank and was, for years, a leading figure in the business affairs of his home town. He will long be remembered by the people of this vicinity among whom he had many friends. He was a Democrat and held many minor offices. Although he was active in party affairs locally, he did not care to leave his business for higher offices. While making no pretensions of philanthropy, he aided many, especially in the circle of his immediate relatives and friends, who turned to him spontaneously for counsel, sympathy and assistance. He died September 3, 1912.

Simon Mapel, the father of William Thrapp Mapel and the grandfather of William Tanner Mapel, was born on June 9, 1814, in Greene county, Pennsylvania, and died November 3, 1891, at the age of seventy-seven years, four months and twenty-four days. He moved from Greene county in 1839, to Maysville, Kentucky, and remained there until 1842, when he moved to Bluffton, Ohio, where he remained for one year. In the next year he came to Putnam county and settled at Gilboa. He engaged in the mercantile business with William Hughes and, in 1855, he formed a co-partnership with the late Stansberry Sutton, which continued until 1868, when he moved to Columbus Grove, where he engaged in the mercantile business and continued until 1874, when he went into the banking business. He continued in the banking business until his death, in 1891. He was thrice married, first to Johanna G. McGuire, July 9, 1836; second to Rachel Thrapp, May 27, 1845, and third to Catherine McClure, March 5, 1861. He was the father of thirteen children by the three marriages. At the age of nineteen years he united with the Methodist Protestant church and was a member until 1873, when he united with the Methodist Episcopal church. He remained a member of this church until his death and was an earnest and faithful worker in the affairs of the church. His highest ambitions were to see the church grow and prosper. He held the office of county commissioner for six years, from 1866 to 1872, and was an earnest and upright official. He did much to develop the county and was active at the time when energy and push were re-

quired to develop the various industries which were then in their infancy. He was an active Democrat. His third wife, Catherine McClure, was the daughter of Andrew and Mary McClure, and was born on February 3, 1834, in Putnam county. She was the second child in a family of ten children, comprising six daughters and four sons. Her father, Andrew McClure, was one of the early settlers of Putnam county and entered a farm close to Gilboa in 1833, when there was only one white woman in the neighborhood, Grandma Hall. Their associates were mostly Indians. Catherine McClure had taught school from the time she was fifteen years of age. By this third marriage there was one daughter, Zoe, who still lives at Columbus Grove.

William Tanner Mapel was married, January 14, 1913, to Anna Furnas, the daughter of Linas T. and Anna (Tinker) Furnas. Linas T. Furnas, a manufacturer of lingerie, at Lima, was born on February 20, 1852, at Pleasant Hill, the son of William Furnas, born in December, 1806, in Miami county, and who died, December 24, 1866. William Furnas married Sarah Terry, of Greenville, Ohio, who was born there July 26, 1816. Anna Tinker was born at Middlefield, Massachusetts, and was the daughter of Samuel and Nancy Tinker. Linas T. Furnas was married to Anna Tinker at Belle Plaine, Iowa. They have three children, Earle Stevens, born on June 28, 1874, died on September 4, 1886; Everett Cable, February 27, 1882, and Anna, the wife of Mr. Mapel, December 10, 1890. Mr. and Mrs. William Tanner Mapel have two children, Marjorie and James Furnas.

Mr. Mapel spent his boyhood days in Columbus Grove and left home after his marriage, coming to the present farm bequeathed to him by his father. He owns one hundred and fifty-seven acres of well-improved land, which is in excellent condition. He follows general farming. The buildings were in splendid repair when Mr. Mapel received it from his father's estate, in the spring of 1913. However, he has made some improvements since that time.

Receiving his early education in Columbus Grove, Mr. Mapel was graduated from the high school and spent one year at Ohio State University in the engineering department. He is a progressive young man, well liked and has one of the best farms in Putnam county. He is quiet and unassuming in manner and possessed of an open and frank disposition. He is loyal to his friends and a booster in behalf of civic improvements, a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Mapel is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons at Columbus Grove and a member of the chapter at Ottawa.

HARRY B. MAPEL.

Harry B. Mapel, postmaster at Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio, is one of the well-known younger citizens of this county. In his veins flows a notable mixture of the best blood which the countries of Europe have contributed to American manhood and American citizenship. Scotch and English on his paternal side, on his maternal side he is pure German. Educated in the school of business, he was for a decade or more, before his election as postmaster, one of the leading young business men of the county, of genteel habits and kindly expression, so keen intellectually and progressive in spirit.

Born on June 22, 1874, at Columbus Grove, Harry B. Mapel has resided here all of his life. His parents, Louis and Sarah Mapel, are old-time residents of Pleasant township, the father having been born a few miles north of Columbus Grove, at Gilboa, in Blanchard township, the son of a father who was Scotch by nativity and a mother of English extraction. Simon and Rachel Mapel, the grandparents of Harry B., were people of exceptional intelligence for the time in which they lived.

The youth of Harry B. Mapel did not differ perhaps from the youth of scores of other boys of Putnam county, except that he was a young man of extraordinary studious habits. After finishing the common schools of Putnam county, and attending the Columbus Grove high school for some time, he left school to enter his father's clothing store and here he obtained a good mercantile education and apprenticeship for a business career. Subsequently, an arrangement was effected by his father in which he and his two sons shared the profits of the enterprise equally, although Harry B. was never an active owner or partner.

It was during his connection with his father's business that Mr. Mapel became interested in collecting historic Indian relics of all kinds. By purchase and otherwise, he has collected one of the most extensive and valuable group of arrow heads, tomahawks and other Indian utensils of warfare and agriculture, to be found in this part of the state. A part of the collection is on display in the Louis Mapel store and a part of it the owner keeps in his own home. Naturally, he is very proud of this collection, having spent great effort and considerable money in getting it together. From time to time, as it is possible, he is adding to the collection. There is no doubt that this group of historical and primitive curios will become one of the most priceless heritages he might leave to his children.

Mr. Mapel has been closely identified, not only with his father's business,

but the business life of Columbus Grove, and this part of Putnam county for many years. Upon his election as postmaster, on November 1, 1913, he abandoned the active pursuit of business and is giving to the people of Columbus Grove and vicinity an efficient administration in that responsible position.

On October 11, 1901, Mr. Mapel was married, in Columbus Grove, to Cora Belle Cupp, who was born on November 30, 1874, in Allen county, Ohio, and who is the daughter of Henry and Mary Cupp. Mrs. Mapel was one of seven children born to her parents, the others being Lena, May, Orrin, Clay, Lulu and Walter. To Harry B. and Cora Belle (Cupp) Mapel have been born three children, Lawrence, Louis and Frank.

Harry B. Mapel is a Democrat and one who has been active in the councils of his party in Pleasant township ever since attaining his majority. To some extent his election as postmaster is a fair reward for past services in behalf of the success of his party. Although he is a natural leader of men, his manners are modest and his disposition kindly and tender. He leads, as a result of his alert and active mind, his capacity for logical and consistent reasoning. Mr. and Mrs. Mapel and their delightful family reside at Columbus Grove, where the family is well known and popular. Mrs. Mapel is a woman of refined and sensitive impulses, well educated and possessed of those charming graces which go to make the home both simple and beautiful.

JOHN BOGART.

John Bogart, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, living on route 1 out of Columbus Grove, is a man who has performed his share of hard and laborious work. His fidelity to duty has won for him the respect and confidence of his neighbors and fellow citizens. By patient continuance in well doing he has gradually risen from an humble station to his present high standing as a progressive farmer of Putnam county. Mr. Bogart has worked his way up from a modest beginning to a position of considerable prominence. He is in every respect worthy of the confidence and esteem of his neighbors.

John Bogart was born in Allen county, Monroe township, on June 4, 1875. He is the son of E. Abraham and Anna Elizabeth (Jones) Bogart, both of whom were natives of Ohio, she in Paulding county and he in Putnam county. Three children were born to them, as follow: Ida, Thomas

and John, the subject of this sketch. John Bogart's mother died when he was but four years old and his father was married, a second time, to Mary Newell, and by this union one child was born, Lilla; E. Abraham Bogart served as sheriff of Allen county for two terms and he now lives in Pleasant township, Putnam county.

John Bogart spent his boyhood days on the farm in Allen county, which was the homestead farm of his parents and here he performed the usual labors that fall to the lot of the country boy. He received his education in the old Turner township school in Pleasant township, across the line from Allen county. With the exception of four years spent at Lima, where he was deputy sheriff under his father who was sheriff of this county, Mr. Bogart has lived on the homestead farm all his life. After leaving Lima, he returned to the farm, where he lived for six years, and then moved to his present farm of eighty-seven acres, about one and one-half miles north of Columbus Grove. He came to this farm in March 1908. Mr. Bogart has a fine farm which is well located on the Ottawa road on which he built a splendid new barn in 1910. The house was already erected when he moved to the farm, but it has been remodeled by Mr. Bogart since he moved to the place.

On May 4, 1901, John Bogart was married to Linda Ritzler, the daughter of George A. and Mary Elizabeth (Daniel) Ritzler. George A. who now lives at Kenton, Ohio, was born at Edesheim, Bavaria, Germany, on August 17, 1843, and came to America in May 1847. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Daniels) Ritzler was born at Kenton, Ohio, on September 27, 1846, the daughter of Philip and Margaret Daniel, the former of whom was born on December 11, 1818, and who died, March 19, 1827, and the latter of whom was born in 1818, and who died in March, 1850. George Anthony and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Daniel) Ritzler were married at Kenton, Ohio, November 22, 1866. They have been the parents of the following children: Margaret S., born on October 30, 1867, was married in 1891, and has one son and resides at Indianapolis, Indiana; Josephine, January 29, 1869, is unmarried and resides at Indianapolis; Mary E., January 2, 1871, was married in 1894, and lives at Cleveland; George A., March 2, 1873, was married in 1895, and has one son and resides at Indianapolis; Clara B., April 25, 1875, married in 1905, and resides at Tahoka, Texas; Malinda M., March 9, 1878, is the wife of Mr. Bogart, and they reside at Columbus Grove; Florence A. F., June 17, 1881, was married in 1907, and resides at Kenton; Walter F., August 16, 1883, married in 1905, and has two sons; Edwin D., October 21, 1886, is

unmarried and lives at Kenton; Calvin F., September 19, 1889, is unmarried and lives at Toledo.

John and Linda (Ritzler) Bogart have two children, Arlene Elizabeth and Florence Mildred. A Democrat in party affiliations, he is a member of the school board of the township and is active in the educational affairs of the township. He is not a member of any lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Bogart and family are members of the Presbyterian church at Columbus Grove. John Bogart is a congenial man, a good "mixer" and an excellent farmer. He bears a high reputation for honesty and sincerity of purpose.

GEORGE HALKER.

There are, according to the United States census report, nearly ten thousand occupations, but there is only one of all this number that is absolutely necessary to man's existence. The three things without which man cannot live are food, clothing and shelter. It is the farmer, who not only controls the food supply, but also holds the clothing products of the world in his hand. His is the only occupation which can exist independently of all others. An increasing number of our best farming men are taking agricultural courses in college and thereby fitting themselves the better to apply advanced thought and modern ideas to the farm. The profession has taken on increased dignity within the past few years and more and more of our young men are applying themselves to scientific farming. The farmer of today has the immense advantage of working with machinery which renders his work free from many of its former disadvantages. Putnam county has many splendid farmers, men who made a success of their vocation before training in the agricultural college became common. Among these splendid farmers of Putnam county, George Halker holds a worthy place.

George Halker was born two miles south of Glandorf, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, on October 28, 1851. He is the son of William and Louisa (Vogeding) Halker. William Halker was born in Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, and left that country for the United States on a pass issued by the German consul, July 25, 1842. He was twenty-five years of age at that time. He came to Dayton, Ohio, and worked about the country for a time and then went to Cincinnati, where he met his wife, whom he later married at Glandorf, this state. After his marriage, William Halker returned to Cincinnati and worked as a cab driver for Nicholas Longworth, the father of



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE HARKER.



Nicholas Longworth, Jr., the son-in-law of Theodore Roosevelt. He drove a cab for Mr. Longworth for three years and then returned to Glandorf and purchased a fifty-two-acre farm, buying out the heirs of his father-in-law. Later, he added twenty-five acres, making seventy-seven acres in all. He added another eighty-acre tract in Pleasant township, where George Halker now lives, and forty acres on the Union and Ottawa township line. This forty acres was sold after his death. He died on April 2, 1889, at the age of seventy-two years, two months and twenty-five days. William Halker was a general farmer and made a success of this business. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Glandorf Catholic church. His wife, who, before her marriage, was Louisa Vogeding, was born on August 28, 1828, in Hetsinbrok, Germany, and died on the homestead farm in Ottawa township, near Glandorf, April 6, 1898, at the age of sixty-nine years, seven months and eleven days.

William Halker and wife were the parents of twelve children, two of whom died in infancy: Mrs. Louisa Kemper, who died in 1912; Mary, who married Andrew Schuhmacher, of Pleasant township; George, the subject of this sketch; Catherine, who died in 1873; Mrs. Henry Mersman, of Glandorf, who died in 1883; Veronica, who married William Hoffman, of Glandorf; Theresia, who married John Hoffman, of Pleasant township; Elizabeth, who married Frank Geisken, of Greensburg township; Philomena, who married Gottlieb Buitler, of Ottawa, and Henry, who lives on the homestead farm in Ottawa township.

George Halker spent his boyhood days on the farm where he lived until he was twenty-four years of age. He was educated in the township schools of Ottawa township, close to Glandorf.

On April 21, 1875, Mr. Halker was married to Bernadina Stechschulte, the daughter of Joseph and Bernadina (Kahle) Stechschulte. Joseph Stechschulte was born in Koenigreich, Hanover, Germany, on April 15, 1828, and was the son of Henry and Christina (Poos) Stechschulte. He came to America with his father and mother when five years of age. They spent eight months in New York and came on to Cincinnati, where they lived for a time, when they came to Glandorf. Joseph grew to manhood here and was educated in the township schools. When eighteen years of age, he learned the cabinet-maker trade, which became his life business. He married Bernadina Kahle, June 21, 1854. She was the daughter of John Francis Kahle, who came from Glandorf, Hanover, Germany, with Professor Horstman, and with him walked from Detroit to the present site of Glandorf. Here they

found a location for the new Germany colony. Mr. Kahle settled in Greensburg township, four miles west of Glandorf, and was the first settler in that neighborhood. Joseph Stechschulte died at Glandorf, February 2, 1862.

To George and Bernadina (Stechschulte) Halker eleven children have been born: Mary, William, Amelia, Anna, Benjamin, Harry, Emma, Leo, Albert, Louisa and Philomena. Mary married John Morman, a farmer of Union township and has six children, Cornelius, Adeline, Philomena, Harry (who died in infancy), Florence and Gilbert; William died at the age of twenty-three years; Amelia married Joseph Westbeld, a farmer of Blanchard, who lives near the infirmary, and they have six children, Louis, Mary, Francis, Lucille, Alvera and Lillian, who died in infancy; Anna married Ferdinand Kuhlman, of Owosso, Michigan, and has four children, Rudolph, Alphonse, Irene and Walter; Benjamin married Lanie Kuhlman, of Union township, and has five children, Margaret, Wilford, Elmer, Alfred and Paul; Harry married Agnes Henken, and lives near his father in Pleasant township, and they have three children, Esther, Raymond and Helen; Emma married Benjamin Kuhlman, of Ottawa township, and has four children, Hilda, Leona, Bernita and Louisa; Leo married Rosie Recker and lives on Mr. Halker's farm south of Columbus Grove, in Pleasant township; Albert married Gertrude Mack and lives with Mr. Halker, his father; Louisa is still at home, and Philomena died in fancy.

After his marriage, George Halker removed to his present farm of eighty acres, which he purchased from his father. He added one hundred acres in Union township and ninety acres in Pleasant township, as well as ninety-seven acres in Pleasant township, or a total of three hundred and sixty-seven acres. Mr. Halker has turned over some of this land to his sons. Fifty acres of the ninety-acre farm he has given to his son, Harry, and fifty acres of the one-hundred-acre farm to his son, Benjamin. Later, he sold twenty-five acres of the one hundred acres to Benjamin, leaving a net total of two hundred and forty-two acres which he now controls.

Mr. Halker follows general farming, raises much live stock and grain. He has a well-improved farm and comfortable buildings. At one time he handled considerable live stock, mostly cattle and hogs, and now has more than forty head of cattle. He feeds a large number of hogs. The land which he owns was mostly heavily timbered when he first came to Putnam county. Mr. Halker has cleared the land, drained it and erected substantial buildings. The house in which he lives is a splendid piece of architecture and the large and commodious barn was built in 1886.

Mr. Halker is one of the leading citizens of Pleasant township and has

been honored with many positions of trust and responsibility. He served as trustee of Pleasant township for two terms, likewise he was a trustee of Putnam county's German Mutual Farmers Insurance Company for six years. He is a Democrat. He and his family are members of the Catholic church at Columbus Grove and Mr. Halker has been a trustee of this church since it was built. He was one of the founders of the church; in fact, he has taken an active interest, not only in the services of the church, but in the financial support of it. Mr. Halker was a trustee of the Glandorf Catholic church for four years and helped to haul the stone for the foundation when it was built. He was active in the affairs of the Glandorf church until the new church at Columbus Grove was erected. Mr. Halker superintended the laying out of the new Catholic cemetery at Glandorf, called Grandview cemetery, in 1900. He was a member of the cemetery committee, and the committee appointed him to superintend the work of laying it out. His boy was the second person buried in this cemetery.

George Halker has been a hard worker and is a man well liked for his kindness and sterling character. He is a lover of his home and children and has always been interested in their welfare. The splendid appearance of his farm shows how far George Halker has been a success in his chosen business. He is a booster for all township improvements; open and frank in his business relations and genial socially.

JACOB M. KUHN.

To write the personal record of men who have raised themselves from humble circumstances to a position of responsibility and trust in a community, is no ordinary pleasure. Self-made men, who have achieved success by reason of their indefatigable labor and who have left the mark of their individuality upon the agricultural and business growth of their township, affect for good a far larger community than they suspect. Unwittingly, perhaps, they build monuments that will endure longer than any shaft which might be erected to their memory. Jacob M. Kuhn is a man who has always exerted an influence for good and is well known and widely respected in Putnam county.

Jacob M. Kuhn was born on March 6, 1857, in Richland county, Ohio. He is the son of Jacob and Mary (Shaffer) Kuhn. Jacob Kuhn was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on November 26, 1824. He lived with

his brother, George, until he was twenty-one years old, his father having died when he was two years old. Near the school house where Jacob Kuhn went to school, on the 26th day of July, 1764, a party of three Indians murdered a schoolmaster, named Brown, and at the same time killed and scalped ten scholars. One of the scholars, a boy, left for dead, recovered and told the story and lived many years afterward. Jacob Kuhn came to Plymouth township, Richland county, in the year 1845, walking the whole way and averaging thirty-five miles a day. He lived with his brother, Samuel, for three years, farming on shares. In the year 1848, he returned to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, on horseback, sold the horse and received about eighteen hundred dollars as his share of his father's estate, walking back to Richland county, carrying his money in a belt and his boots, averaging thirty miles a day. The year 1849, he bought forty acres near his brother, Samuel, and lived with his nephew, H. W. Patterson, until the year 1851. He also held minor township offices, but throughout his life was a stanch Republican, and always took a deep and active interest in politics, notwithstanding the fact that he never cared for office. He was a sterling member of the German Reformed church in Richland county and an active worker in this church at all times. He was one of the founders of this church in the community where he lived and held all of the offices in the church. He gave liberally to the church both in money and services. He died on August 25, 1876, at the age of fifty-two years, after an illness of eighteen months. Jacob Kuhn was married, November 20, 1851, to Mary Shaffer, of Jackson township, Richland county. She was a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and came to Richland county with her parents when a small child, where she grew to womanhood and married. She was the daughter of George and Mary (Detrick) Shaffer, who came to Ohio in 1839 in wagons. She was born on March 13, 1827, and died, May 18, 1892, on the old homestead farm in Richland county, at the age of sixty-five. Jacob and Mary (Shaffer) Kuhn were the parents of seven children, Mary, who died in infancy; Mrs. Martha Jane Coulter, who died at Olympia, Washington, in 1910; George U., who lives in Richland county; Jacob M., the subject of this sketch; Frank, of Richland county; William, who lives in Richland county; and Mrs. Clara Strock, of Olympia, Washington.

Mary Detrick, the maternal grandmother of Jacob M. Kuhn, was born on March 28, 1792, the daughter of Lewis and Julian Detrick. She was the tenth child of a family of thirteen children, seven boys and six girls, and died in June, 1866.

Great-grandfather and great-grandmother Kuhn came from Germany

to Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in the year of 1754. To them were born seven children, five boys and two girls. They moved to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1772, and entered a farm that has been in the Kuhn name ever since, Mr. Bruce Kuhn living on the farm at the present time, 1915.

Grandfather Samuel Kuhn was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on February 18, 1771, and moved with his parents to Franklin county, that state, in 1772. He was married about the year 1798, to Catherine Smith. To them were born twelve children, six boys and six girls. They both died in Franklin county, grandfather Kuhn in the year 1826, and his wife in the year 1842.

Jacob M. Kuhn grew up in Richland county, and was there married. He came to Putnam county in 1887, and settled on a farm which his father had purchased, in 1857, for nine dollars an acre. It was in the wilds at that time and nothing had been cleared. Jacob M. Kuhn's father never farmed this land, but leased it. It originally comprised one hundred and sixty acres, but now consists of one hundred and five acres. Jacob M. Kuhn farmed here until the fall of 1911 and then moved to his present place, just outside of the corporation limits of Columbus Grove, consisting of twenty-five acres. His son is now farming the land from which Mr. Kuhn moved in 1911. Jacob M. Kuhn made all of the improvements on the one-hundred-and-five acre farm and erected all the buildings. He has also made many improvements upon his present place and has one of the finest farms in Pleasant township, and the twenty-five acres where he now lives is a beautiful country home and is well kept. Mr. Kuhn occupies a large and spacious residence. He built a new barn in 1913 and has made extensive improvements on the residence which was standing on the place when he moved to it.

On October 3, 1882, Jacob M. Kuhn was married to Ida Enlow, a native of Richland county, and a daughter of Andrew J. and Mary (Schlosser) Enlow. Andrew J. Enlow was born on August 13, 1826, in Richland county, and died on July 17, 1904. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary Schlosser, was born on August 17, 1831, and died on July 6, 1903. Jacob M. and Ida (Enlow) Kuhn have been the parents of five children, Clara, who married Floyd Bowers, of Lima, and has two children, Mary and Earle; Earle, who is a cigar maker at Ottawa; George Howard, who lives on his father's farm in Pleasant township, married Forrest Stoner and has two children, Kholetta and Kenneth; Mary Lilace, who married Brice Darbyshire, a farmer of Sugar Creek township, near Rimer, and June, who is at home. Mr. Kuhn was one of the incorporators and chairman of the board of directors of the Home Industry Store Company, of Columbus Grove.

Mr. Kuhn is a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 376, of Columbus Grove. He served as township trustee of Pleasant township for one term. He is identified with the Republican party, but is more or less independent in his voting. Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn are members of the Presbyterian church at Columbus Grove. Formerly, he was a trustee of the church but is no longer active. The Kuhn family are also members of the same church. Jacob M. Kuhn is a congenial, sociable man of splendid intellect and is a substantial citizen. He is a man who never violates a spoken or written promise and his word is as good as his bond. He is well liked and favorably known throughout this section of Putnam county.

PETER A. SCHARF.

A list of the representative citizens of Putnam county, Ohio, would be incomplete were there failure to make specific mention of Peter A. Scharf, a leading merchant, and the present postmaster of Cloverdale, Ohio. Mr. Scharf is descended from old pioneer stock, and is of Germanic ancestry, his people having been distinguished for their moral and intellectual strength, for their high ideals, patriotism and deep religious principles.

Peter A. Scharf was born on November 5, 1866, in Peru township, Huron county, Ohio. He was born near Norwalk on a farm, and is the son of John and Anna (Young) Scharf.

John Scharf was the son of Jacob and Catherine (Miller) Scharf, natives of Alsace, Germany. They came to America when John was eight years old. He was born in 1829, and settled near New Washington, Crawford county, Ohio. He farmed in Crawford county for some time, or, rather, until his death in 1848. John Scharf grew up on the homestead near New Washington, Crawford county, and was educated there. He later moved to Peru, in Huron county, Ohio, where he farmed, and where Peter A. Scharf was born. When Peter was eighteen months old his father returned to New Washington and entered the saloon business for a short time, but he later sold out, and went into the hardware business at the same place. Part of the time he was in partnership with Samuel Myers, and then he bought out the interest of Mr. Myers and carried on his business for about six or seven years, when he built a large brick business block. He had about seven thousand dollars invested in this building, which was destroyed by fire, and he had no insurance. He then sold his hardware store to William Donnenwirth, and then rebuilt the brick business block, and worked for Mr.

Donnenwirth as clerk for some time, to hold the hardware trade. He was here about two years, and had just regained his financial footing, when he died suddenly from the effects of a sun-stroke. He passed away in 1876, at the age of thirty-seven years. John Scharf was married to Anna Young, in New Washington, who was a native of Crawford county, and a daughter of Peter and Mary (Stein) Young. She was born in 1841, and died at the age of thirty years, about 1871. John Scharf was not a member of any lodge, and never held office. He was a Democrat, and a member of the Catholic church, at New Washington, and took an active interest in the church work. He was a man of good business abilities and believed in sound principles of business management. He was very popular and well liked in the community for his sterling character. He and his wife had five children, Peter A., Jacob, Liberatus, and two others, twins. All, with the exception of Peter A., died in infancy. Anna (Young) Scharf was the daughter of foreign-born parents. Her father was a native of Forbaugh, France, and her mother was a native of Metz. They came to Crawford county, Ohio, and were farmers near New Washington. It was here that Mrs. Anna (Young) Scharf was born.

Peter A. Scharf grew up in New Washington, and was educated there. He lived there until eighteen years of age, when he went to St. Francis, Milwaukee, and took a four-year normal course. Subsequently, he returned to Dyer, Indiana, and taught the public and Catholic schools for thirteen years. In 1901 he came to Cloverdale, Perry township, and bought out William Kirkendall's dry-goods and general-merchandise store. In the beginning, William Stretker was a partner, but later Mr. Scharf bought out his partner, since which time he has increased the stock, and aims to have on hand what his patrons need. He has a substantial trade, and is very popular in the community.

Peter A. Scharf was married on July 26, 1892, to Rosina H. Fortiner, who was born on April 13, 1875, near Delphos, Ohio. She is the daughter of Peter and Margaret (Kipp) Fortener. Peter Fortener is a carpenter and farmer, born on May 30, 1830, in Alsace-Lorraine, Canton Forbaugh, France. Peter Fortener is a son of John George Fortener, who was born in Alsace-Lorraine in 1800 and who died in 1866. John George Fortener married Margaret Yochem, who died in 1856. J. Peter Fortener came to America in 1836. He was married to Margaret Kipp, who was born on May 6, 1840, in Tippecanoe county, and the daughter of Rudolph and Mary (Feierbach) Kipp. Peter Fortener was educated in the common schools. He is a Democrat in politics and a member of the Catholic church.

To Peter A. and Rosina H. (Fortner) Scharf ten children have been born: Henrietta Josephine, on June 8, 1893; Aloysius Joseph, January 31, 1895; Eulalia Barbara, December 27, 1896; Hildegard Anna, February 26, 1899; Otto Henry, July 12, 1901; Leo Anthony, December 9, 1903; Lutgardis Magdelina, October 4, 1905; Leonard Carl, September 11, 1908; Eugene Peter, August 12, 1911, and Pauletta Marie, July 22, 1913.

Fraternally, Mr. Scharf is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, Catholic Benevolent League, the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and the Knights of Columbus. He is a member of the St. Barbara's Catholic church of Cloverdale. A staunch Democrat, he has served as justice of the peace, councilman and as mayor of Cloverdale, as well as township treasurer of Perry township. He was appointed postmaster of Cloverdale by the civil service commission, having taken charge of the office on November 1, 1914. He is a willing worker in the councils of the Democratic party. When Mr. Scharf was elected postmaster he was mayor and township treasurer, but resigned the latter offices for this new work. He is a man of good, sound judgment and a man whose advice has been much sought on legal and other matters. He is liberal in all things and is always willing to assist those in actual need. He bears a high reputation in his community for fair dealing and genial manners. Mr. Scharf has a splendid store and a neat stock of goods, makes friends fast and holds them. He has a fine home and is very much attached to his wife and to his children.

AUGUST REDD.

Well situated on the Ottawa road in Pleasant township, Putnam county, there is a farm, which, by reason of the well-kept appointment and the general air of quiet prosperity which characterize it, not infrequently excites the admiring remarks of the casual passerby. There is something about the appearance of most of the farms and farm houses in this favored section of the state, that strangers, passing through, are wont to comment on most favorably, as indicative of quiet thrift and modest gentility. Among the farms thus marked, there are few in the section in which it is located that is better known than that of August Redd, a brief biography of whom the historian finds pleasure in here calling to the attention of the reader of this sketch.

August Redd was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on March 8, 1860, the son of John and Eliza (Devinney) Redd, the former of

whom was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, on May 31, 1815, and the latter of whom was born in the same county on April 12, 1824.

John Redd grew up in Fairfield county, experiencing all the difficulties of the pioneer life of that time, and on October 11, 1840, was united in marriage to Eliza Devinney, the daughter of John and Ann (Umwake) Devinney, the former of whom was born on August 15, 1792, and the latter of whom was born on August 15, 1802. John Devinney died on June 12, 1842, and his widow was married, a second time, in 1846, to August Koch and died, November 11, 1881.

Following their marriage, John and Eliza Redd came from Fairfield county to Putnam county, settling in Ottawa township, where they bought a farm on which they remained for a time and then moved to Columbus. Here they lived for a period of five years, at the end of which time they returned to Putnam county and rented a farm in Blanchard township, where their son August, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born. After farming there for a time, John Redd bought the farm in Pleasant township, on which his son August now lives, and there he and his wife spent the rest of their lives, his death occurring May 14, 1885, at the age of sixty-nine years, eleven months and fourteen days, his wife surviving him many years, her death not occurring until January 30, 1910, at the age of eighty-five years, nine months and eighteen days. John Redd became an influential member of the community in which his latter years were spent and his voice was always given consideration in the discussion of measures designed to increase the general welfare of the neighborhood. He was a strong Democrat, and though not an office-seeker, ever took a good citizen's part in the political affairs of the county. He had been reared in the Presbyterian church and he and his wife were active in the good works of the community, being properly regarded as among the leaders in the section of the county in which they lived.

To John and Eliza (Devinney) Redd were born ten children, Nathaniel; Rachael; John; Putnam; James; Lewis and Ida (twins); August; Charles and John. Of these, the only present survivors are Lewis, who lives in Norton, Kansas, and August.

August Redd was reared on the home farm in Blanchard township and received the advantages of the local schools of that period, remaining at home until the year 1883, when he left for Kansas, in which state he farmed for two years, at the end of which time he returned to Putnam county and married the girl to whom his court had been paid previous to his departure for the West. With his bride at his side he then returned to Kansas, where they made their home for nine years. During this time they were able to buy a

farm in Kansas, which they operated with considerable success, but the lure of home ties was strong and in the fall of 1894 they sold their Kansas farm and returned to Putnam county, settling on a farm in Pleasant township, which they rented for a time, then bought the farm on which they are now living in the same township, to which they moved in the spring of 1903, and where they have met with a gratifying measure of success, being now very well circumstanced.

On October 29, 1885, August Redd was united in marriage to Ada Elizabeth Harris, who was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, on March 29, 1868, the daughter of Alexander R. and Nancy J. (Crawfis) Harris.

Alexander Rudolphus Harris was born on November 12, 1833, in Licking county, Ohio, and came to Putnam county when he was a young man, about the year 1838, with his parents, who settled in Blanchard township. Here he grew to manhood and on October 14, 1862, was united in marriage with Nancy Jane Crawfis, who, for more than twenty years, made him a faithful and competent helpmeet and who bore him nine children, as follow: Louis Samuel, lives in Alberta, Canada; Edson, lives in Michigan; Ada Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Redd; Anna, married Duff Bracy, and lives in Michigan; Blanche, married Frank Bowman and lives in Michigan; Laura, married Ed Phillips, and lives in Wood county, Ohio; Pearl, married Bon Hissong, and lives at Benton Ridge, Ohio; John, Pearl's twin brother, is deceased, as is Henry, the last born. The mother of these children died, October 20, 1880, and on November 28, 1881, Mr. Harris married, secondly, to Mary Catherine Larkins, to which union there were born eleven children, three of whom died in infancy, the others being: Nettie, who married a Mr. Boyd; Mamie, who married George Boyd; Alma, deceased; Badeson; Dora, who married Edward Walker; Hazel, Catherine and James, all of the survivors of whom reside in the state of Michigan, with the exception of Mamie and Catherine, who live in Louisiana. Following his second marriage, Alexander R. Harris moved, with his family, in the fall of 1883 to Saginaw county, Michigan, where he farmed until his death, February 25, 1911. His widow is still living on the farm in Saginaw county, Michigan.

To August and Ada Elizabeth (Harris) Redd were born five children, Putnam, who married Zoe Smith and is a prosperous farmer in Pleasant township; Blanche, who married Ralph Agner, a Blanchard township farmer, and has two children, Floyd and Etheline; Zelma and Gertrude, who are at home, and Florence, deceased. The Redds are members of the Methodist Protestant church at Riley Creek and are active in the various beneficences of that organization, the family very properly being regarded as among the leaders

in the social and economic life of the community, Mr. Redd being a trustee and steward of the church. He is a Democrat and while giving such attention as a good citizen owes to the political affairs of his neighborhood and county, has never been included in the office-seeking class, though he served for several years very acceptably on the school board of his township. He is a man of congenial habits, quiet and unassuming in his manner, of sterling character and an excellent farmer and good judge of live stock. Mr. Redd is essentially a "home man," a kind father and indulgent provider. He has a good farm and a fine home and is rated as among the most substantial men in his neighborhood.

DAVID CORE.

One of the enterprising and successful farmers of Putnam county who came here when this country was a wilderness is David Core, a native of West Virginia.

David Core was born in Monongalia county, West Virginia, on May 9, 1840. He was a son of Moses and Elizabeth (Piles) Core, both natives of Monongalia county. Moses More was a soldier in the War of the American Revolution.

David Core grew up on a farm and on February 27, 1862, he was married to Rebecca E. Layton. She was also born in Monongalia county, and was a daughter of Peter and Catherine (Lyming) Layton. Peter A. Layton was born at Perryopolis, on the Monongahela river, between Martintown and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Catherine Lyming was born near Cassville, in Monongalia county, West Virginia.

In the fall of 1866 Mr. and Mrs. David Core moved to Putnam county, Ohio, and after one winter in Columbus Grove, moved to his farm two miles northeast of that place, a farm of fifty-four acres that he bought after he came here. The land was still new, no ditching had been done and there were very few improvements made at that time, and only about twenty-five acres had been cleared. Later, Mr. Core bought another farm adjoining the first tract, and though he still owns the first tract, he moved over to the second. He lived there until March, 1909. He now owns one hundred and twenty-three acres. Mr. Core was trustee of Pleasant township for one term and discharged the duties of that office with entire satisfaction. In 1909 he moved to Columbus Grove, where he now has a beautiful home.

Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Core and grew to maturity:

Olive, George W., Layton, Charles, Fannie, Harry, J. Gordon, Ida and Bert V. Olive, who married Daniel Tate, lives near Columbus Grove and has one daughter, Mrs. Nellie Harbaugh; George W., whose sketch is found elsewhere in this volume, is cashier of the Peoples Bank; Layton, who lives about three miles east of Columbus Grove, married Elizabeth Davis and has two children, Arlena and Raymond; Charles, who lives on his father's farm two miles east of Columbus Grove, married Emma Welty and has three children, Vera, Lenna and Russell; Fannie, who became the wife of Lemley Morris, lives about one and one-half miles east of Columbus Grove and has four children, Catherine, Amy, Paul and Mildred; Harry, who is a lawyer of Columbus Grove, married Anna Baxter and has five children, William, James, Imogene, Harriett and George Richard; J. Gordon, who is a traveling salesman for the Pandora overall factory, lives at Columbus Grove and married Edith Miller. They have one daughter, Ethelyn Ida, who died in 1901, and was the wife of George D. McComb and lived about two miles southeast of Columbus Grove; Bert V., who resides on his father's farm, married Myrtle Bowers and has one daughter, Helen.

Mr. Core is a member of the Republican party, while he and his family belong to the Presbyterian church. The Core family is among the best in Putnam county, where they are held in universal esteem. Mr. Core is interested in all public questions, to which he has contributed much of his attention.

DANIEL EMANS.

No review of the lives of those residents of Putnam county who have contributed largely to the growth and development of the county's best interests, would be complete without mention of the life and of the services to his community of the gentleman whose name introduces this brief and modest biographical narrative, Daniel Emans, one of the best-known and most popular citizens of Pleasant township, this county, a man who quietly and unselfishly has done much to better the conditions of his home neighborhood during his long residence therein, and it is a pleasure for the biographer here to present for the consideration of the readers of this volume a short sketch of Mr. Eman's career in the community in which his whole life has been spent.

Daniel Emans was born on the farm in Pleasant township, Putnam county, on which he still lives and where his parents and grandparents before

him had lived, August 15, 1854, the son of Gilbert J. and Anna (Seitz) Emans, the former of whom was a native of New Jersey, born on July 13, 1813, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1815.

Gilbert J. Emans came to Putnam county when he was fifteen years old, at which time his parents, John and Sarah (De Mott) Emans, arrived here from New Jersey. This was about the year 1835, and the farm which was unbroken forest, was where the Emans family settled in Blanchard township, adjoining the site of the present county infirmary. There were eighty acres in this tract, which later, as the elder Emans succeeded in clearing his farm, was added to until the farm comprised ninety-three acres, on which the original owners spent the remainder of their lives. Grandfather and grandmother Emans were people of sterling worth, of stanch pioneer type, and their influence in the early development of that section was exerted in every good way, so that, at their death there was general mourning in the entire neighborhood.

After the death of his parents, Gilbert J. Emans bought the interests of the other heirs in this farm and owned the same until his death. Previous to the death of his parents, however, Gilbert had bought a tract of forty acres in Pleasant township, where his son, Daniel has made his home and now lives. This original tract of forty acres was unbroken forest at the time he purchased it, but was cleared, to which was added another forty adjoining, and as this came under cultivation, he also added an additional forty, which he entered from the government and which, before his death, September 24, 1877, he had also brought to a good state of cultivation, making, in all, a fine farm. Gilbert J. Emans was a good citizen, an excellent neighbor and a devoted husband and father, his example in the community in which he lived being of the most wholesome sort.

In the year 1846, Gilbert J. Emans was united in marriage to Anna Seitz, who was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1815, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hiatt) Seitz, who came to Ohio with her brother, David Seitz, in the year 1846, the two settling on land in Fairfield county, which previously had been entered from the government by their parents. It is on this farm, consisting of one section of land, that David Seitz remained the rest of his life, clearing the same and making an excellent farm of it.

To Gilbert J. and Anna (Seitz) Emans were born four children, all of whom survive, Lydia, who married August Clay and lives in Mercer county, Ohio; Elizabeth, who married Benjamin Van Eman and lives in Van Wert; Daniel, who is the immediate subject of this narrative, and John, a successful farmer of Blanchard township, who owns the farm originally entered by

his paternal grandparents. The mother of these children died, March 18, 1899, having passed the eighty-third year of her life, and there was much mourning in the community when she died, for she was a good woman.

Daniel Emans spent his boyhood days on the birth-place farm where he grew up, receiving his education in the excellent school of district No. 1, Pleasant township, and being carefully instructed by his father in the necessary qualifications to the successful life of a farmer, it being determined early that he should follow farming. Incidental to this work, however, he received some excellent training in carpentry and has done considerable work in this line during his life.

Mr. Emans is a member of the Riley Creek Methodist church and is devoted to the various beneficences of that church and active in all its works. He is the present class leader, a position of honor which he has held for some years. He is a Republican and takes an active interest in the political affairs of the county and for some years has served as clerk of the election board. For the past five years Mr. Emans has been practically retired from the active work of the farm, though he continues to give his close attention to the management of the same. He is a good farmer and a man of sterling qualities, enjoying a wide acquaintance and an excellent reputation throughout the county, his earnest and quiet methods commending him to all who know him.

HENRY UPTON KENNEY.

Descended from good old Irish stock and having natural instincts for absolute frankness in their dealings with their fellow men, bearing an enviable reputation throughout this neighborhood for their pleasing manner, congenial spirit, exceptional business ability, and withal for success which has been the result of due consideration for the feelings of others, upright and honorable in all transactions, and worthy of the praise and appreciation of their fellow men, it becomes the duty of the historian to include the name of the Kenney family in the history of Putnam county where they have lived so long and achieved a marked success after overcoming many seeming insurmountable obstacles.

Henry Upton Kenney was born on January 26, 1877, on the site of his present farm, in Pleasant township, this county, and is the son of Norton and Olive (Eversole) Kenney. Norton Kenney was born on July 25, 1846, near Canal Winchester, Fairfield county, Ohio, and is the son of Upton and Hannah (Whitehorst) Kenney, the former's father was born on February 19, 1818,

in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and was the son of Samuel and Margaret (Hanna) Kenney.

Samuel Kenney was probably born in Ireland and came to America as a stowaway, or may have bound out to work his way across the Atlantic. It is believed that his first place of settlement was in Greencastle, Pennsylvania. He remained here a short time and then removed to Hagerstown, Maryland, where he conducted a general dry goods business. It is recorded that he married Margaret Hanna, in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, October 18, 1810, and to them eleven children were born, Mary Ann (Mrs. Campbell), on July 25, 1811, now deceased; John, March 14, 1813, deceased; Nancy McDill (Horn), February 18, 1815, deceased; George A., December 16, 1816, deceased; Upton, February 19, 1819, deceased; Samuel Alexander, April 2, 1823, of Staunton, Nebraska; Julietta (Huffman), February 22, 1825, of Lovington, Illinois; Rudolph, April 11, 1827, deceased; Jackson, February 12, 1829, deceased; Martin Van Buren, March 28, 1830, deceased, 1912, and Margaret (Kramer) April 25, 1833, of Decatur, Illinois. The wife, Margaret Hanna Kenney, was born on January 4, 1789, and died in May, 1873. She was popularly known and referred to in her day as "Granny" Kenney. After their marriage, Mr. Kenney continued to run the general dry goods business in or near Hagerstown, Maryland, and beside this devoted a portion of his time to teaching school, which he continued to do for many years. He was particularly learned in the subject of mathematics. From Hagerstown he removed to Fairfield county, Ohio, in the year 1823, and at which time the son, Upton, was five years of age. Here he located on a farm, erected a log house for which he hewed the logs and by frugal living and well-directed efforts he managed to accumulate a fortune and died in Fairfield county. Upton remained under the parental roof on the original farm in Fairfield county, and when he grew to manhood he could look with great satisfaction to all the improvements he made on the land which bore the distinction of being one of the finest farms and residences in this part of the county. His marriage to Margaret Whitehorst took place, June 5, 1845, and to them twelve children were born, Norton, on July 25, 1846, deceased; Amanda W. (Hart), March 14, 1848; Martha, February 4, 1850, deceased; George W., April 13, 1851; Herman, March 17, 1853, deceased; Sophia E., September 22, 1854; Charles E., April 4, 1856; Thomas W., August 24, 1859; James F. and William, twins, September 15, 1862 (twin William, deceased); Mary A. (Stemmel), December 9, 1864, and Julietta (Fromme), November 7, 1866. Norton Kenney was married to Olive Eversole, January 11, 1872, and she was the daughter of Henry and Sofronia (Heis) Eversole of Fairfield county, where

she grew to womanhood on her father's homestead farm and received her education in the township schools. She remained at home until a year after her marriage, when her father sold the place and decided to settle in Pleasant township, Putnam county. This occurred in the spring of 1874 and after buying one hundred and fifty-two acres here, one hundred acres of which was in timber, he built a home and continued to farm until about three years prior to his death, which occurred on November 25, 1912, and in the sixty-sixth year of his age. In 1909, he added, by purchase, another farm of thirty-six acres, situated about one mile northeast of Columbus Grove, where he erected another home and where he lived a life of retirement. During his time he took great pride in raising Shorthorn cattle, which he put on exhibition at county fairs, held in the vicinity. To Norton and Olive (Eversole) Kenney there were seven children born, Nellie Florence (Forrer), of Stewards Draft, Virginia; Charles E., who lives with his mother in Pleasant township; Daisy (Mrs. Henry Geiger), of Kirksville, Missouri; Bert and Bessie who died in infancy; Henry U.; Maude Olive (Good) of Pataskala, Ohio. Mr. Kenney was a man whom it was a pleasure to know. In party affiliations, he was a Democrat and at one time held the office of township trustee, in Pleasant township, for two terms. He was a member of the Plesbyterian church as was also his wife and family. He did not belong to any societies.

Henry Eversole was a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, and soon after his marriage to Sofronia (Heis) Eversole, came to Fairfield county, where he settled near the town of Millersport. He had something more than five hundred acres of land which he entered from the government. This he farmed until the time of his death, with the exception of one year, which he spent on a farm he purchased in Anglaize county, Ohio. He died in the year 1850, at the age of forty-four years. His wife was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and came with her parents to Fairfield county. The trip was made by horseback and she, being then but two years old, was carried all the distance in her mother's lap. She grew up on her father's homestead farm, where she was married. Her death occurred in 1872, at which time she had attained the age of seventy-three years. To their union were born nine children, John; David; Maria; Caroline; Heis; Olive, subject's wife; George and Henry, twins, and Miller. The first four and the last named are now deceased.

Henry Upton Kenney with his brother Charles, farms their place in Pleasant township. They spent their early days about the homestead farm and received their education in the township schools. They followed in the father's footsteps and gave particular attention to learning all about the cattle

business and have always made a specialty of raising the Shorthorn breed. Their success in this line has been exceptional and they are known throughout the entire country for large holdings in the cattle business where they advertise extensively by exhibiting the best animals of their herds at county and state fairs. As a side line, they do considerable buying and trading in horses and other breeds of cattle, and are recognized as big shippers in the northwestern portion of Ohio, and splendid judges of live stock.

On November 26, 1909, Henry Upton Kenney was united in marriage to Clara Knapp, of Syracuse, New York, and they reside on the beautifully situated and excellent homestead farm. Mr. Kenney is in partnership with his brother, Charles E. Kenney, and they conduct the cattle business under the name of Kenney Brothers, dealers in fine cattle and horses. They make a specialty of Shorthorn cattle, for sale and breeding purposes.

Mr. Kenney, the subject, is an active worker for the Democratic party, is not connected with any societies, nor does he claim any active part in religious matters, though he was brought up in the Presbyterian faith. Personally, he is a man who bears a wide acquaintance and is well thought of in the community, not only at home, but at large, and is particularly well liked for his fair and square business methods. He is always a booster for the good of the public and always found to take the lead in advancing the interests of citizens of his county and state.

Charles Kenney, who shares the activities of his brother in the farming and stock business, is unmarried and is very popular, energetic and business-like in his methods.

CHARLES HENRY JONES.

The purpose of a review is not to give utterance to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments, but preferably to leave upon the record the verdict establishing his character by the concensus of opinion on the part of his neighbors, friends and fellow citizens. The life of the unassuming gentleman, whose name appears above, has been such as to warrant praise from those who know him best, owing to the fact that he has always been loyal to the trusts reposed in him and has been upright and honorable in his dealings with his fellow citizens, at the same time lending his support to the advancement of any cause looking to the welfare of the community at large.

Charles Henry Jones was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county,

Ohio, on October 19, 1884, and is the son of Philip H. and Arie (Buckingham) Jones. Philip H. Jones was born on November 17, 1848, in Erie county, Ohio, and was the son of Edward and Ann (Roberts) Jones. Edward Jones was a native of Cheshire, England, where he was born on December 3, 1817, and died in Columbus Grove, June 27, 1899, age eighty-one years and six months. He was descended from good English parentage and came to America in the year 1842, first settling near the city of Sandusky, where he was married on November 7, 1842 to Ann Roberts. His wife died on January 28, 1897, being then at the age of seventy-four years and eleven months. In 1850, Edward Jones moved to Paulding county in 1851, remaining a year, he moved to Putnam county; and located on a farm a few miles northwest of the town of Columbus Grove, where he continued to reside until the year 1876, when again he moved to another farm closer to Columbus Grove, at which place he died, after having farmed successfully all of his life. Ann (Roberts) Jones, wife of Edward Jones, was also born in Cheshire, England, on February 8, 1822, which country she left at the age of thirteen, accompanied by her parents, who settled in Erie county, Ohio, near the city of Sandusky, and where she was married. Edward and Ann Jones were well and favorably known throughout their neighborhood and children of the community constantly referred to him as "Grandpa" Jones. In the year 1856, this loving old couple were received into the United Brethren church and ever afterward proved themselves devout and active members. In their home they erected an altar around which the family joined in prayer, it being their idea to instill into the hearts of their children the fear of the Lord, and in this their efforts were not in vain. To them were born ten children, Hattie, who died on June 6, 1880; Annie (Mrs. Bogart), died in August, 1879; Melissa (Mrs. Holmes), died in September, 1895; Albert, who died in April, 1898; Dora (Bushong) of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Edwin, of Bluffton, Ohio; Philip and Harvey, of Pleasant township, this county, and two children who died in infancy.

Philip H. Jones came with his parents to Paulding county, Ohio, and in 1851 removed to Putnam county, where he remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage on March 10, 1870, to Arie Buckingham, who was the daughter of Nicodemus and Margaret Jane (Niswander) Buckingham. Soon after his marriage, he went to Bluffton, Ohio, where he farmed a forty-six-acre tract for a while, then returned to Putnam county, where he purchased a forty-acre tract, near the old homestead farm, and farmed this place for thirteen years. By frugal living and well directed efforts he added forty acres to this and then sold the eighty acres. At a later date, he went

to the old Bedford farm, one mile northwest of Columbus Grove, where he farmed for twenty years and then sold out. Purchasing the Daniel Slusser farm on the Ridge road, which he farmed for eight years, he sold out and then bought the Seth Smith farm of one hundred ten acres, which was located about a mile farther west. After a period of one year, he sold out this place and bought an eighty-acre tract in the vicinity of Rockport, Ohio, which he now owns and which his son, Homer, manages for him. In December, 1910, he returned to Columbus Grove, and bought the property on which he now resides. He was not a member of any societies, but he has been a believer in Republican principles and at one time was elected to the office of township supervisor. He is a devout member of the United Brethren church, as is also his entire family. To Philip Jones and wife the following children were born: John E.; Chester H.; Anna, who married Charles McDowell; Prudence Naomi, who married Lee McDowell; Charles Henry, Homer Lee, Hattie, who married Edward Henderson, and Anna. Of these children all are residents of Pleasant township, this county, exception Homer Lee and Prudence Naomi who reside in Allen county.

Nicodemus Buckingham, was a native of Fairfield county, where he was born on May 30, 1817, near the town of Zanesville. He came alone, when a young man, to Blanchard township, Putnam county, and settled close to the county infirmary, in which neighborhood the subject's mother was born on September 22, 1849. Nicodemus Buckingham was a life-long farmer. He was married and lived in Blanchard township for a number of years and then removed to Union township, this county, where he continued farming for twenty-five years, then returned to Blanchard township, settled on a farm close to the town of Leipsic, where he spent the remaining days of his life. He was the father of eight children, Anne (Mrs. Wise), of Findlay; Arie, subject's mother, and Herman, of Ada. Also Mary, Sarah, Thrift, Maggie and Anasy, all of whom are deceased.

Charles Henry Jones was married on December 6, 1903, to Alta Fay Hartman, daughter of John H. Hartman, a full history of whom is given elsewhere in this work. To them two children were born, Noland Morris and Charles B. The early life of Charles H. Jones was spent on his father's farm, until he was twenty years of age, and later he spent a year with his father on the one-hundred-one-acre tract on the Ridge road. It was here that he was married and rented a farm from his father for a period of four years. He then bought the Harvey Jones farm of one hundred and ten acres, which was formerly known as the Smith farm. After farming this place for a year, he sold it to his father and bought the Frazier farm of forty acres, which he

farmed for about two years, then sold out to Adam Keifer and son, and bought the Michael Bernis farm of ninety acres, which is located on the Pandora road, northeast of Columbus Grove, and where he now resides.

Besides carrying on a general farming business, Mr. Jones gives considerable time and attention to the feeding of large herds of cattle, horses and lambs. He owns breeding mares of the Percheron and Norman strain and has one pair of full-blooded (sisters) stock. The farm is not only a credit to the owner, but to the neighborhood, and Mr. Jones takes great pride in keeping the place up to the point of highest efficiency. He is reputed to be one of the best judges of live stock in this part of the country and is an excellent farmer.

Mr. Jones believes in the old-time principles of the Republican party, but has never taken any active part along these lines. The family devote their interest toward the United Brethren denomination in Columbus Grove. Personally, Mr. Jones is found to be a man of unassuming disposition, quiet and pleasant, and is noted for his integrity of character, his loyalty to correct principles and is honored and esteemed by all who know him.

BERNARD R. UTENDORF.

Agriculture is no longer an occupation which can be followed without special preparation. Taxes, higher cost of living, and lessened fertility of the soil, place farming in the light of a business for which one must prepare either by the lessons of experience or the agricultural college, if the proper degree of profit be gained. An agriculturist who has gained his knowledge both in the hard school of experience and by the study of the newer ideas, is Bernard Utendorf, of Pleasant township.

Mr. Utendorf was born in Ottawa township on February 28, 1879, the son of Joseph and Catherine (Schulte) Utendorf, who were the parents of eight children, namely: Mrs. William Kleman, of Pleasant township; Elizabeth, who lives on the homestead; John H. lives in Pleasant township; Bernard R.; Joseph lives on the home farm, and three children who died in infancy.

The paternal grandfather of Mr. Utendorf was Joseph Utendorf, Sr., who came from Germany and located on a forty-acre tract near Glandorf, which was then in the wilderness. With a hardy German constitution, he cleared his land and made a success of the farm as far as was possible in those days. His efforts were all directed to the realization of a dream of a

homestead for his children. He died on this farm, about 1883. His wife, Mary Ann (Gerdeman) Utendorf, was also born in Germany, and died on the homestead in August, 1882, at the age of sixty-eight years. She was a noble woman and a true helpmeet to her husband. She was the mother of two children, Joseph, deceased, and Mrs. William Ellerbrock, who died on July 24, 1911.

Joseph Utendorf, Jr., the father of Bernard, was born on May 10, 1840, on the family homestead. He obtained a meager schooling, which was all that was available in those days. He lived on the homestead until his marriage and then sold the place to his brother-in-law, John H. Kleman, and moved to his wife's farm of two hundred acres, which he cultivated until his death, on August 27, 1885, at the age of forty-five years. He was a Democrat and he and his family were members of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf. His wife, born in Ottawa township, on October 3, 1842, is still living on the homestead, about two and one-half miles southeast of Ottawa, on the township line.

The youth of Bernard Utendorf was spent on the home farm, where he lived until his marriage. He attended the township schools until his marriage, after which he farmed a portion of the home farm. He then bought twenty-three acres of land from Harvey Summers, to which he has added until he now owns one hundred and seven fertile and well-improved acres, the greater part of the improvements having been added by Mr. Utendorf by hard work and the application of the principles of right farming, an example of which is the tiling of an open ditch at an expense of five hundred dollars.

On November 6, 1867, Joseph Utendorf married Catherine Schulte, a native of Ottawa township and a daughter of Henry Schulte and Elizabeth (Uphaus) Schulte, the former of whom was a native of Oldenburg, Germany, who came to America after his marriage and located on a tract of forty acres of wild land near Glandorf. By hard work he put the farm in good condition, and there he died on July 27, 1844, when Catherine was three years of age. His wife was also a native of Oldenburg, Germany, and after his death she was married to Herman Berning, who died on January 14, 1885. No children were born to this second marriage. To Henry Schulte and wife were born two children, Elizabeth, who died in infancy, and the mother of Mrs. Bernard Utendorf.

It seems fitting to tell first of the marriage of the father and then of the marriage of the son. The marriage of Bernard Utendorf to Leona Kolhoff occurred on October 29, 1901, the wife being the daughter of George

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and Caroline (Deck) Kolhoff, of Glandorf, Putnam county. Mr. and Mrs. Utendorf are the parents of four children, Martha, Marie and the twins, Bernard and Carl.

Mr. Utendorf and his family are members of the Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church, while Mr. Utendorf is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. He is a Democrat, but is rather independent in his political views. Popular, congenial and well liked, Mr. Utendorf has a strong influence as an advocate of modern principles of farming and progressive methods. He is a kind father, a home lover, and a successful tiller of the soil.

HOMER H. KEIFER.

While success cannot be achieved without unflagging industry, the futility of effort is often noticeable in the business world and results from the fact that it is not combined with sound judgment. Many a man who gives his entire life to toil, earnest and unremitting, never acquired a competence, but when his labor is well directed, prosperity always follows. Mr. Keifer is one whose work has been supplemented by careful management and today he is numbered among the successful agriculturists of the locality in which he lives.

Homer H. Keifer was born in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, on July 31, 1885, and is the son of Adam and Jennie (Foley) Keifer. His father was the son of Daniel and Lydia Anna (Spindler) Keifer and was born in Richland county, July 24, 1855. Homer Keifer's parental grandfather was born in Berkshire county, Pennsylvania, on January 24, 1819. When he first came to Putnam county, it was a wild, heavily timbered and swampy country. He lived to such an old age that he had the opportunity to observe the great changes which took place from year to year. During his entire life, he was engaged in farming and through the practice of thrift and industry he became fairly successful and accumulated a good share of this world's goods. Daniel Keifer was thrice married, the first time to Lydia Ann Spidler on September 10, 1844, and to them were born five children, Elias, deceased; Elmira (Mrs. G. G. Williams), of Ottawa; Mary (Mrs. Sheets), of Greenwood, Wisconsin; Adam, subject's father, and a child which died in infancy. Lydia Ann Keifer died, June 7, 1873, at the age of fifty-four years and eleven months. On August 10, 1874, he was married the second time to Christiana Sperio, who lived until July 24, 1892, without having given birth to any children. The third marriage occurred on September 20, 1896, to Mrs. Maggie Larrick. Homer's parental grandfather lived to the ripe old

age of ninety-one years and six months, and died on July 7, 1910. In his early life, he was baptized and confirmed in the German Reformed church, but after coming to Putnam county, he became affiliated with the United Brethren church of which he was an active member until about the time he died.

Adam Keifer, was but three years old when his parents came from Richland county, and settled in Pleasant township, where he grew to manhood, received his early education in the neighboring township schools and lived on his father's farm, until the time he was married. He continued to live there until the spring of 1911 when he moved to Columbus Grove, his present home. Adam Keifer had learned the carpenter trade and followed this to some extent, in connection with his farming interests in Pleasant township, and was recognized as an expert mechanic in his line. After his marriage on April 3, 1879, to Jennie E. Foley, daughter of Philip and Mary Elizabeth (Goodwin) Foley, he continued to farm until the time of his retirement in 1911. Adam Keifer is a member of the Knights of Pythias of Columbus Grove, and has always been identified with the Democratic party. He is a strong supporter of the principles of Democracy, but never has aspired to public office. He and his family are members of the United Brethren church of Columbus Grove. Their children are Ily (Mrs. G. Froerer), of Kokomo, Indiana; Homer H., the subject, Cora B. (Mrs. Glancy), of Lima, and two children who died in infancy.

Philip Foley was born in Franklin county, on January 1, 1824, and died on February 17, 1898. Her mother was also born in Franklin county, on August 10, 1834, and died on July 31, 1880, in the forty-seventh year of her age. Her parents came to Putnam county, in the year 1852 and first settled in Sugar Creek township where they remained for two years and until the marriage of their daughter, Jennie, and then moved to Union township where they farmed the remainder of their lives. To their union were born nine children, Jennie, subject's mother; Rosa Ellen, deceased; Mina May (Mrs. Spencer), of St. George, Georgia; Esther, deceased; Marguerite Iona, deceased; Anna (Mrs. Smith), of Pleasant township; Della, deceased; Lula (Mrs. Snyder), of Augusta, Georgia, and a child that died in infancy.

Homer H. Keifer remained under the parental roof in Pleasant township, during his boyhood and received his early education in the neighboring schools. At the age of twenty-one, he was married to Mattie C. Kohli, daughter of Jacob and Nancy (Featheringill) Kohli, and which marriage occurred on September 16, 1906. Immediately afterward he and his wife began housekeeping in Lima, where he worked at the blacksmith trade for a period

of two years, then was occupied for two years as a fireman on the Chicago, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, with headquarters in Lima, after which time they returned to Putnam county and resided on the homestead farm for about a year, then removed to the present farm in Pleasant township, which he and his father bought, and which is known as the Robert's farm, situated about one and one-half miles northwest of Columbus Grove, which farm contains eighty acres and is well situated. Homer H. Keifer makes it his business to carry on general farming and devotes considerable time and attention to the feeding of live stock. Since coming here, Mr. Keifer has made a number of improvements on the place, including the fencing of nearly the entire tract and has ditched about twenty acres. Some new buildings have been erected, and included in these improvements are a large corn-crib and a strictly modern pig-sty. Everything about this farm indicates the thrift and unceasing industry of the occupant, whose chief interests are centered in making this farm a model of its kind. Homer H. has always been identified with the Democratic policies and for the past two years has served in the capacity of clerk of the local election board. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Columbus Grove Lodge, and is an active member of the United Brethren church, while Mrs. Keifer takes an interest in the United Brethren church also, of which she is a member. They have one child, Herbert D., born on April 20, 1910. Personally, Mr. Keifer is a man who is well thought of in his community and his loyalty to right principles of living have won for him a place of high esteem and good wishes of everyone who knows him.

HENRY B. VERHOFF.

The routine of private life, although of vast importance in the welfare of the community, has not figured to any extent in history, but the names of men who have distinguished themselves by the possession of those qualities which contribute to the success of private life and to the public stability, and who have enjoyed the respect and confidence of those around them, should not be permitted to perish. Their examples are most valuable and their lives well worthy of consideration. Such are the thoughts that involuntarily, of course, come to mind when taking under review the career of such an honored individual as Henry B. Verhoff, a well-known farmer of Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio.

Henry B. Verhoff was born on July 22, 1869, in Greensburg township, on the banks of the Blanchard river. He is a son of Theodore and Elizabeth

(Egbers) Verhoff, the former of whom was born in Greensburg township, on June 17, 1838, and was a son of Francis and Mary (Kramer) Verhoff. Mary (Kramer) Verhoff was a daughter of Theodore and Gertrude Kramer, who came to this country when Mr. Kramer was about fifty years old. Francis Verhoff, the father of Theodore, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, and came to America in 1836 alone. He settled near Glandorf and was married to Mary Kramer in 1837. He was a blacksmith by trade and followed this occupation after coming to this country, at Chicago, Toledo, and on the Maumee river, which occupation he also followed for some time in Putnam county, where he bought ten acres of land near Glandorf. Here he had a small blacksmith shop. He added to his original purchase of land until he owned a large tract and retired from active life only a few years before his death.

Theodore Verhoff was married on June 18, 1861, to Elizabeth Egbers, and to this union twelve children were born, Frank J., on June 22, 1864; William F., August 22, 1866; Henry B., July 22, 1869; John Theodore, April 6, 1870; Joseph Charles, March 15, 1873; John B., April 6, 1875; August George, February 5, 1877; A. Albert, February 18, 1893; Mary Elizabeth, April 13, 1862, deceased; Mary Ann, March 4, 1863; Amelia Helena, June 21, 1879; Mary Regina, February 24, 1891.

Henry B. Verhoff spent his boyhood days on his father's farm in Greensburg township, and worked for his father until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he was married.

On June 2, 1907, Mr. Verhoff was married to Elizabeth Gerdeman, the daughter of Henry and Bernadina (Eickholt) Gerdeman, and to this union have been born two children, Romanus and Matilda, both of whom are living at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Verhoff settled on his father's farm of eighty acres, in Greensburg township, and here he lived until the fall of 1908, when he sold his farm and purchased one hundred and fourteen acres of land in Union township, and on this farm he lived until 1911, when he sold out and bought his present farm in Pleasant township. This property is located north of Columbus Grove, and comprises one hundred and sixty-six acres. Mr. Verhoff moved to this place in 1913, and here he carries on a general system of farming and stock raising, making a specialty of hog raising, and also gives some attention to milch and dairy cows.

Henry B. Verhoff and his family are devout members of the Catholic church at Columbus Grove and Mr. Verhoff is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio. Although he is a Democrat in politics, he has never been active in the councils of his party.

Henry B. Verhoff is a quiet, unassuming man, a good farmer and a good judge of live stock. He keeps his farm in excellent condition and is a believer in progressive farming. He has always been an industrious man, and has managed to secure a competence for his efforts. He is highly respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances in Pleasant township, where he maintains his residence. His buildings are all of the best and the very substantial.

CHARLES W. DOTY.

In the life record of Charles W. Doty, who for many years has been identified with various interests in Putnam county, Ohio, is shown many qualities in his make-up that always gain definite success in any career if properly directed. The splendid success that has crowned his efforts has been directly traceable to the salient points in his character, for he started in life at the bottom of the ladder. He comes of a splendid American family, one that has always been strong for right living and industrious habits, for loyalty to the national government, and for all that contributes to the welfare of a community, and because of his success in life and his high personal character, he is clearly entitled to specific mention in the annals of this county.

Charles W. Doty was born in Pleasant township, on December 28, 1874, and is the son of Andrew Jackson and Clarissa (Trask) Doty. Andrew Jackson was born on July 25, 1850, in Viola, Greene township, Mercer county, Illinois, and was the son of Cornelius and Cassander (Geyer) Doty. The paternal grandfather was born in Mercer county, Illinois, and left there when but three years of age with his parents, Eliza and Sarah Doty, for Peoria, Illinois. It was there that he received his education and arrived at maturity. At the age of twenty he enlisted in the army for service against Mexico, where he remained throughout the entire campaign. After the war, he returned to Illinois and settled in the town of Monmouth, where he was occupied as a stage-coach driver until the time of his marriage. He then returned to Mercer county, Illinois, where he took up a soldier's homestead of one hundred and sixty acres of land (all Mexican war veterans were allowed one hundred and sixty acres of homestead land). Here he carried on general farming until the breaking out of the Civil War, when he enlisted as a private in Company I, Seventeenth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under General Logan, and served gallantly for the term of eighteen months,

when he was taken ill and returned home. He remained in Mercer county, Illinois, until the year 1867, then left for the state of Iowa, where he remained a year, after which he removed to Putnam county, Ohio, where he rented a farm and followed agriculture until about eight years prior to his death, May 4, 1894. During the eight years previous to his death, he served as a night watchman in the Jones handle factory, at Columbus Grove. He was born on July 25, 1825, and died at the age of sixty-eight years. Personally, he was regarded a man worthy of the high esteem of his fellow man and was a devout and active member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Columbus Grove. His wife, Cassander Geyer, was born on October 16, 1828, and was a native of Licking county, Ohio, a daughter of John Geyer and wife. Accompanied by her sister she left the home of her parents when quite a young girl and came to Putnam county, and afterward she left here for Monmouth, Illinois, where she received her education, arrived at maturity and was married. She died, in 1899, at the age of sixty-eight years. To their union were born eleven children, Katurah, deceased; Andrew Jackson; James, of Pleasant township; Elizabeth (Stevens), of Colorado; Cornelius, of Pleasant township; Steven, deceased; Mary L. (Starkweather), of Columbus Grove; two infants, deceased; Samuel, deceased, and Charles, of Columbus Grove.

Andrew Jackson Doty spent his early days in Mercer county, Illinois, and at the age of seventeen years accompanied his parents west to Iowa, then again east to Putnam county, where he remained with them until 1868. It was here that he married Clarissa Trask, September 8, 1872, daughter of James R. and Lydia (Howard) Trask, to which union were born, Charles; Zoe L., deceased; Lee M., of Columbus Grove, and E. Fern, also of Columbus Grove, where he is a teacher in the second grade of the high school. The father put in a good portion of his life as a farmer, and also conducted a general draying business for twenty years at that place. On December 6, 1913, he discontinued the draying business, and for the past nine years has acted in the capacity of town marshal, in which capacity he has another year to serve. In 1892, he also served the town as street commissioner, which office he conducted with considerable credit. He is an active worker for the Republican party and a firm believer in progressive legislation to the welfare of the community. He is a member of National Beneficiary Union Lodge of Ohio, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Columbus Grove. James R. Trask was born on December 15, 1833, in Riley township, Putnam county, and was a farmer all his life, except for the time that he was in the service of his country. When the Civil War broke out, he

voluntarily enlisted in Company D, Twenty-first Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, in 1861, and served until 1865, when he received an honorable discharge. During the war, he lost an arm in a guerilla skirmish, near Chattanooga, Tennessee, at which time he was under orders of Captain Ewing, of Ottawa, Ohio. After the war, he settled on his forty-acre farm in Riley township, and remained there until 1871, when he removed to Columbus Grove, near where he lived and farmed in Pleasant township and where he owned a one-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm. After farming here for a time, he moved to the state of Indiana and settled on a one-hundred-acre farm which he purchased in Pulaski county. He sold out this place, at a later date, and finally returned to Columbus Grove, where he lived with his children, and died on January 9, 1895, of creeping paralysis, which is believed to have been the result of the wound he suffered in the Civil War. His wife, Lydia Howard Trask, was a native of Crawford county, Ohio, where she was born on November 6, 1835, and came to Putnam county with her parents when she was three years of age. Her parents settled close to the town of Pandora, Riley township, and she was married in 1852. Except for about two years, spent in the state of Indiana, she lived her entire life in Pleasant township, but is now residing with a daughter, Mrs. Blake, of Elwood, Indiana. To James Trask and wife were born the following children: Clarissa, subject's mother; Emmadelia, deceased; James Oliver, deceased; David E., of Findlay; Ava (Vaughn), of California; Rosetta (Finnegan), of Francisville, Indiana; Marietta (Blake), of Elwood, Indiana, and Wilson, of Chicago, Illinois.

Charles W. Doty passed his boyhood days and received his early education in Pleasant township. At a later date, he went to Columbus Grove, where he secured employment in the Henry Belford Handle factory and where he continued to work until the time of his marriage, on January 14, 1897, to Ama Jennette Featheringill, daughter of George and Alvira (Fruchey) Featheringill. After his marriage, he rented what is known as the Strain farm, consisting of eighty acres, and continued to farm this place for seven years, then he bought his present farm of one hundred acres, which he has brought to such a high point of efficiency in production, that it is recognized as one of the choice places in this community. A comfortable and commodious residence and first-class barns and outbuildings are the pride of the owner, who is regarded an excellent farmer.

It is particularly interesting, from point of ancestry, to observe that Mrs. Charles Doty's progenitors were very early settlers in the United States. George Featheringill, the great-grandfather of George Washington

Featheringill, left England and came to this country in, or about, the year 1790 and settled in the original state of Virginia, where he lived until his death. He was the father of several children, but special mention shall be made only of Thomas and Thornton, the sons who were responsible for the descendants, and particularly of Thomas, who grew up to manhood in his native state of Virginia, and was married some time prior to the War of 1812. In this war, he enlisted for his country's service and was wagon-master for his company, whose headquarters were in the town of Columbus. After the war was over, he returned to Virginia and lived with his family, which consisted of his wife and children, John, Henry and Elias. On account of Virginia being then a slave state and the practice of slavery growing to such large proportions, they decided it was not a good place to raise children. They then moved to Columbus, to which place they were accompanied by the brother, Thornton. In the vicinity of Columbus they farmed, the son John doing the greater portion of the work, while the father and Elias contracted team work. Some time after the war was over, Thomas Featheringill did teaming work between Columbus, Ohio, and Baltimore, Maryland, there being no railroads in the United States in those days. From the three children, John, Mary and Elias Featheringill, the entire Featheringill family descendants can be traced. John, married Martha Ramsey, and to them were born seven daughters and one son, the last named, John Elias, who died when but eighteen months old. The seven daughters all lived to be very old and their married names were: Irinda Fruchey, America Hooper, Barbara Fruchey, Nancy Kohli, Eliza Kohli, Mary Elizabeth Kunnecke and Sarah Viers. Mary Featheringill, the only daughter of Thomas Featheringill, married John B. Bogart, and to them were born: Margaret, Jane, Sarah, Martha, John, Hannah and Harietta. The youngest son of Thomas Featheringill, Elias, married Hannah Bogart, in 1829, and their children were George Washington, William Thomas, John, Irwin L., Minor, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary Ann, Jane, Martha, Emeline and David. Martha contracted pneumonia and died at the age of sixteen; Emeline died with the croup when an infant; David died, January 26, 1863, from small-pox; John was a soldier in the Civil War and was killed in the battle of Chickamauga; William Thomas died when very young; Jane married Fred Fruchey; Irwin L. Minor married Caroline Stanz; Sarah married John Tate; George Washington married Elvira Fruchey in 1853. The children of the last named were Jefferson, Lutellus, Lincoln, Mary and Jeannette, and Marion. Marion married Clara Holmes; Jefferson died when a young man; Lutellus married Laura Palmer and was killed by a train of cars; Lincoln married Laura

Sheets, and, at a later date, married Grace Kauffman; Mary married James Palmer, and Jeannette married Charles W. Doty.

George Washington Featheringill was the eldest of Elias Featheringill's children and came to Columbus Grove, from Columbus, in the year 1833. His first home in this county was located on the banks of Cranberry creek, among the wigwams of the Indians who inhabited that region. Later on, the Indians constructed three-sided log houses, somewhat imitating the white settlers. With Indian children for his playmates, it was but natural that the older Indians would be friendly toward him in later years, and this really proved a fact in this case. For many years, Mr. Featheringill lived within a half mile of his first home and has observed the great changes occurring since his childhood. He well remembered the buildings first erected in the various parts of the county and when quite aged he moved to Columbus Grove, renting out his farms which were east of the town. When his wife passed away, he lived with his children and, on October 2, 1913, he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Charles W. Doty, being then at the age of eighty-three.

Charles W. Doty has always been identified with the Republican party, of which he is a staunch supporter, but has never aspired to office, does not belong to any societies, but he and his family are members of the United Brethren church of Columbus Grove. Personally, Mr. Doty is "a man well met," and is particularly noted for his droll manner of expression and his absolute frankness, fair and square dealings with his neighbors and others with whom he has business transactions.

HENRY J. UNTERBRINK.

A brief resume of the life work of the gentleman whose name appears above cannot give an adequate description of the hardships he has passed through to gain for himself the title of "successful man," but Henry J. Unterbrink has been pointed out by his fellow men as one worthy of praise for his accomplishments, one who has been loyal to the trusts reposed in him, always upright and fair in his dealings with everyone, at the same time lending his support to the advancement of any cause looking to the welfare of the community at large.

Henry J. Unterbrink was born on September 12, 1862, in the town of Glandorf, Germany, and was the son of William and Elizabeth (Hohenbrink) Unterbrink. The father and mother were natives of Germany and

both were born and raised in the town of Glandorf. When Henry J. Unterbrink was four years of age, the parents decided to leave the old country, and after their arrival in America, settled on a forty-acre farm in Greensburg township, near the town of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. This farm was thickly wooded and required a great deal of clearing, so it was that these thrifty settlers set about their task to make a success of the place as a farm and home. The timber was cut and the land drained, a house for themselves was erected from the logs obtained from the clearing, and today Henry J. Unterbrink can show two of the logs that went to make up a part of the homestead. William Unterbrink and wife lived on this place for some years, then moved to Peasant township, where they obtained a fifty-two-acre farm that was about one-half cleared. On this land they erected a log house and barn, cleared a portion of the timber and set about to do general farming. The old folks conducted this farm until the death of the father, April 24, 1894, at which time he was sixty-six years of age. The mother survived him until February 7, 1903, at the age of seventy-two. She was a hard-working, kind and loving mother, who took great pride in her family, and much credit must be accorded to her for the part she took in the early days assisting her husband. Seven children were born to William and Elizabeth (Hohenbrink) Unterbrink, William, Caroline, Henry, Grace, Joseph and Frank, besides an infant, who died in Germany. Of these, Caroline is now the wife of Joseph Maag and resides in Pleasant township, and Grace married Henry Uphaus, who is a resident of Jackson, Tennessee.

On May 30, 1880, Henry J. Unterbrink was married to Catherine Uphaus, daughter of Barney and Bernadina (Frey) Uphaus, the former a native of Glandorf, born on February 2, 1837, who conducted a farm in Ottawa township for many years. He died, February 2, 1907, in his seventieth year, and was buried at Ottawa. The latter was a native of Louisville, Kentucky, and is at this time living with Barney Uphaus, a brother of Mr. Unterbrink's wife, who is located on a farm in Ottawa township. To Barney and Bernadina (Frey) Uphaus were born ten children, William, who died at the age of two years; Caroline and Henry (twins); Elizabeth, who is now Mrs. Joseph M. Rhinehart, of Seneca county; Barney; Mary, who married Sager and resides in Portageville, Missouri; Philomena; Amelia, who died at the age of twenty; Bernadina, who is now Mrs. Edward Feltman, also an unnamed infant.

Henry J. Unterbrink remained on his father's farm during his youth, received his education in the township schools, and at a later date, purchased the homestead farm from his father. Having made a satisfactory settlement

with the other heirs to the place by paying for their interests, he proceeded to make the improvements which are to be seen today and which mark the place as a strictly up-to-date and well-managed farm. Many new buildings have been erected, special attention having been given to a large T-shaped barn which is modern in every respect. In addition to general farming, considerable effort is directed toward the raising of good live stock. To Henry J. and Catherine (Uphaus) Unterbrink were born three children, Edward, who died in infancy; Amelia and Philomena, who reside with the parents.

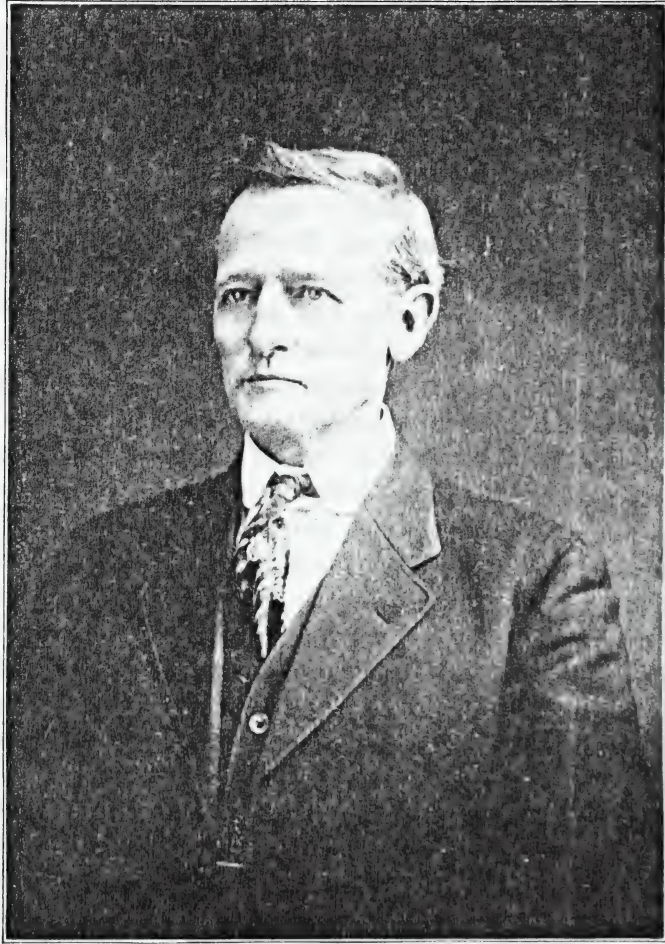
Personally, Mr. Unterbrink enjoys the esteem and good will of everyone in his community, where he is known to be a man possessed of a true spirit of congeniality, sincerity, and one who is ever ready to lend a helping hand to his less fortunate fellow men. He is a member of the Democratic party, though not particularly active in these matters; however, he has held office as township supervisor and a director of the school board. He is an active and devout member of the Catholic church in Ottawa, where the other members of the family are regular communicants.

JOHN C. JONES.

A life-long resident of Putnam county, Ohio, J. C. Jones has lived such a life as to bring his name prominently before the public. As a county official and as a private citizen he is painstaking and conscientious in whatever he does. As the cashier of the First National Bank of Ottawa he has served this bank for the past decade with a faithfulness and conscientious devotion to duty which has been highly pleasing, both to the directors of the bank and to the public at large.

J. C. Jones, the son and youngest of nine children, born to Cadwalader and Ann (Rees) Jones, was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 3, 1863. His parents were born and reared in Montgomeryshire, North Wales.

Cadwalader Jones came to America in 1831, and was married at North Bend, Ohio, October 7, 1846. A short time afterward they located in Putnam county, where they made their home the remainder of their lives. Cadwalader Jones was a man of much intelligence and imbued with sound principles. He had an excellent education and taught in the rural schools for many years, in which community he also served as township official and in many ways gave high and enduring proof of his ability. His long and cred-



J. C. JONES.

itable services as a church official gave ample proof of his prominence in religious circles. He was a shrewd, keen observer of men and events, an assiduous reader, and he had a mind stored with a great fund of information. He and his wife gave earnest support to the Congregational church. Cadwalader Jones died on September 19, 1881, in his sixty-ninth year, and his wife passed away on February 20, 1894, in her seventy-third year.

J. C. Jones was reared and educated in the township where his parents settled when they moved to Putnam county. Educational advantages were limited in those days, and after completing the course in the district schools he was a student for a short time at the Northern Normal School at Ada, Ohio, and, while still a minor, began to teach school. In his younger days literary and debating societies were all the rage, and he took full advantage of the opportunities which were provided by them. His parents were both thoroughly religious people and he has inherited a strongly religious temperament which shows itself in his every-day life. At the age of twelve he united with the Congregational church, and gave his hearty support to the denomination until he moved to Ottawa, in 1890, when he became united with the Presbyterian church. In this denomination he has served as an elder for several years, and takes an active interest in its religious affairs.

Mr. Jones is a Republican in his political interest, but liberal in his views, and his party has frequently honored him by elevating him to official positions of various kinds. He has served as justice of the peace in Sugar Creek township, and in 1889 he was on the ticket as a candidate for representative to the state Legislature, and again in 1891. He was defeated both times, although he made a splendid race. In 1890 Dr. W. F. Reed, the Republican candidate for county auditor, was elected, and chose Mr. Jones for his deputy, and he served in this capacity for a period of three years. During his deputyship Mr. Jones gave faithful and efficient service in the discharge of his duties. He was responsible for detecting and exposing evidences of official corruption in two of the county offices and, as a result of his efforts, a deficit of nearly thirty thousand dollars was proven, and several ex-county officials were tried and convicted. After retiring from the office as deputy auditor, he engaged in the abstracting business in the county seat for two years, and at the end of that time, became his party's candidate for county auditor. His previous record in this office as deputy made him particularly strong with the people, and after a bitter fight against a large adverse majority, he was elected. He amply vindicated the people's judgment by giving them an efficient administration.

In 1899 Mr. Jones retired from the office of county auditor and spent one year in the real estate and abstracting business, after which he took a position in the Putnam Banking Company, of Ottawa. Two years later, in December, 1903, Mr. Jones helped to organize the First National Bank of Ottawa, and has been the cashier of this bank since its organization. In the bank, Mr. Jones shows the same capacity for unremitting toil and fidelity to duty which has characterized him during his whole career.

The career of Mr. Jones cannot be dismissed without reference to his activities for the public welfare in behalf of temperance. In 1908 he was the chairman of the temperance forces of Putnam county, and in 1914, in the fight for the constitutional amendment for statewide prohibition, he was chairman and the leader of the fight in his home county. He is a frequent speaker on the public platform in behalf of public-spirited measures.

J. C. Jones was married on April 9, 1889, to Sarah Davis, of Gomer, Ohio, the daughter of John R. and Ann Davis, and to this union six children have been born, four of whom are now living, Rowena, Florence, Ann Pauline and Robert Cadwalader. Rowena graduated from Oberlin College in the spring of 1914, and is now teaching in the high school at Vaughnsville, Ohio. Mr. Jones' wife is a faithful church worker and devoted to her home life and family, and is a loving and conscientious mother.

John R. Davis and wife, Ann, were born in North Wales and came to Gomer, Ohio, in 1880, where he engaged in agriculture. He was musically inclined, a good singer, and a member of the Welsh Congregational church. They live at Gomer, Ohio. John R. Davis is now seventy-seven years of age, and his wife is seventy-two.

EDWARD L. McCRATE.

Among the younger generation of Putnam county, there seems to be a goodly number worthy of distinct recognition in a historical work of this nature, and since it is the duty of the chronicler to give credit where credit is due, it is with absolute propriety that consideration is accorded to Edward L. McCrate, who is not only referred to as a leading agriculturist and stock raiser, but, who has won and well merits the esteem and confidence reposed in him by the people of his community. His achievements are the result of concentrated study and well-directed efforts along specific lines.

Edward L. McCrate was born on July 17, 1880, on the homestead

farm in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is the son of Joseph and Bridget (Lane) McCrate. His father, Joseph, was born on March 17, 1836, in Tipperary county, Ireland, and was the son of Thomas and Ellen (Casey) McCrate. Accompanied by two brothers and a sister, Joseph McCrate left his native Ireland and immigrated to this country, where they decided to settle in the state of Ohio. Joseph came to Putnam county, in 1859, where he remained until 1861, when, on April 26, of that year, he enlisted in the Union army as a member of the Twenty-first Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. After three months' service, he re-enlisted, on September 2, 1861, and was assigned to the Fifty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private soldier and remained in the service until the last gun was fired on August 25, 1865. During his service, he was promoted to first lieutenant and was actually under fire in as many as twenty fierce engagements, the principal ones being the battle of Shiloh, Arkansas, Post Willis Bayou, siege of Vicksburg, Champion Hill, at Jackson, Mississippi, Mission Ridge, Snake Creek Gap, Resaca, Atlanta and Georgia, and Jonesboro. He was with Sherman on the memorable march to the sea and was among the men who crossed the Broad River on a pontoon to drive the Confederate pickets from the posts of Columbia, South Carolina. He was in the charge of Fort McAllister and participated in the last engagement of the war at Bentonville, North Carolina. His brother, John, was enlisted in the Seventy-ninth Ohio Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, which participated in the battles of Perryville, Kentucky, and Resaca, Georgia, and he was wounded during the battle of Lookout Mountain, the result of which wound caused him to be honorably discharged. Dennis Lane, father of Mrs. Joseph (Lane) McCrate, was wounded in the battle of Resaca and he died from the effects of his wound. Michael, brother-in-law of Mrs. McCrate, was also in the Civil War and was killed in the battle of Nashville, in 1864. After the war was over, Joseph McCrate located in the town of Kalida, Ohio, where he was engaged in the saw-mill business, when, after two years, he purchased a farm, three miles west of Columbus Grove, which he occupied as a home throughout the rest of his life and where he died, February 5, 1907, at the age of seventy years and ten months. On November 8, 1871, he married Bridget Lane, the daughter of Dennis and Mary (Mahoney) Lane, who came to this county in 1858, who was born on June 1, 1851, in Butler county, Ohio. To the union of Joseph and Bridget (Lane) McCrate were born nine children, Mary E. (Mrs. Amos W. Best), of Union township; John J., of Leipsic; William E., city clerk, Lima; Catherine (Mrs. Martin O'Brien), Lima; Joseph C., of Portageville, Missouri; Paul, who is an engi-

neer on the Chicago, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, Lima; Edward L., the subject of this sketch; Mabel, who is occupied as a stenographer in Cleveland; Charles J., who attends school in Dayton. The father's homestead farm consists of three hundred and forty acres of well-tilled and highly-improved land and it is said that no better farm land exists in this county. There are twenty-seven miles of drain tile on this place and the residence is regarded as one of the most beautiful in this county; the costly barn building recently erected is strictly modern in every respect. At a later date, Joseph McCrate purchased what is known as the George B. Bogart farm of seventy-nine acres, in Union township, on which he erected a new barn, and on which place Mrs. Amos W. Best makes her home. In addition to this land, the father also purchased a five-hundred-and-eighty-acre farm in the state of Kansas. These holdings were the result of a life of frugality and continued industry and, therefore, it is not surprising that Joseph McCrate accumulated quite a fortune through the means of his own well-directed efforts. During the war there was no soldier who served his country more gallantly or with greater credit than did Joseph McCrate.

Edward L. McCrate remained on the home place during his youth and received his education in the neighboring township schools, and he also took a special course in agriculture in the State University of Ohio, after which he returned to his father's farm and where he has been active ever since. In addition to general farming he gives particular attention to the raising of highly bred and registered cattle, sheep and hogs, especially to sheep, and his specialty is Shropshire sheep and Shorthorn cattle. Besides being considered a splendid judge of live stock, Mr. McCrate is very successful in general farming, and the knowledge gained from the course he took in the State University has given him a decided advantage in agricultural pursuits. On January 7, 1911, Edward L. McCrate was married to Alice Exelby, who was a native of Lenswée county, Michigan, and a daughter of Walter and Jean (Gibson) Exelby. Her father was a native of Lenawée county and was born in September, 1862, and is still living, at the present time being retired from active farming, which business he pursued almost his entire life. He makes his home in Lenawée county, near the town of Britton, Michigan. He was for many years county supervisor, also township trustee and road commissioner for several terms. He is a supporter of the Democratic party and is an active member of the Christian church, of which he is a trustee at this time. Mr. Exelby is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Britton. His wife, Jean Gibson Exelby, was a native of Antrim county, Ireland, was born in the year 1864, and died in Lenawée county,

Michigan, in 1909. To their union were born three children, Alice, the wife of Edward L; Hazel, who is now Mrs. E. A. Babcock, residing in Michigan, and George W., who lives in Detroit.

To Edward L. and Alice (Exelby) McCrate have been born two children, Robert E. and Jean Elizabeth, and they continue to live on the father's homestead farm, which, as stated before, is one of the model farms of the county and which Mr. McCrate takes great pride in showing to his friends and visitors. Devoting his entire time and attention to making the most of his opportunities in this place, it is gratifying to observe that this young man is a decided success as a farmer and stock raiser and by the constant exercise of his natural thrift and industry, close application to details and by scientifically managing, he is regarded as an authority on matters pertaining to agriculture and stock raising. Personally, he is a most interesting young man to meet and is noted for his pleasing manner and affability. Mr. McCrate's land holdings include an original one hundred and seventy-seven and one-quarter acres on the homestead. He also owns one hundred and two acres of fine land in the state of Missouri.

Mr. McCrate is a supporter of the Democratic ticket, but has never held political office, does not belong to any fraternal organizations, but is an active member of St. Anthony's Catholic church in Columbus Grove, where his family also are regular attendants. Mr. McCrate is also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

JOSEPH J. SCHUMAKER.

No man is great in all things. Many by a lucky stroke achieve lasting fame, who, before that, had no reputation beyond the limits of their immediate neighborhoods. It is the preliminary work, the method, that serves as a guide for the success of others. Among those in Putnam county who have achieved success along steady lines of endeavor, is the man whose name appears above.

Joseph J. Schumaker was born on January 25, 1846, in Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio, and is the son of Anthony and Gertrude Schumaker, who, soon after their marriage, came to this country from their native land, Germany, and settled on a thickly wooded and rather uninviting forty-acre tract of land in Pleasant township, which, by hard and consistent work, was cleared for farming and on which he erected a comfortable home. Anthony Schumaker was born in 1802, and died in 1877, after having passed

a full lifetime on the homestead. His wife died in 1885, being then about eighty years of age. Thirteen children had been born to this couple, all of whom are deceased with the exception of the subject of this review.

Joseph J. Schumaker received his early education in the schools of Pleasant township, and remained under the parental roof until 1865, during which year he was married on November 15, 1865, to Mary Caroline Wellman, who was born on December 24, 1843, and is a daughter of Conrad and Anna Mary (Beckman) Wellman. Soon after the marriage, they purchased a forty-acre farm in Pleasant township, which they cleared and on which they made their home for twenty years. About this time his wife was taken ill and died on October 4, 1885. By this marriage there were twelve children born: Henry Anthony, October 19, 1866, died on September 14, 1868; Mary Anna, March 30, 1869, who is now the wife of Theodore Haselman, a farmer in Liberty township, and whose life history appears elsewhere in this work; Mary Gertrude, September 8, 1870, now Mrs. Mary Bellman, Putnam county; Mary Catherine, March 10, 1872, now Mrs. Henry Bellman, Putnam county; Andrew, October 31, 1873, who married Amelia Maag, and who is a native of Putnam county; John Ferdinand, January 8, 1877, died November 15, 1880; Catherine Amelia, June 21, 1878, now Mrs. George Webken, of Putnam county; Andrew Francis, March 17, 1880, who married Mary Meyer, of Putnam county; Bernard Henry, August 29, 1881, who married Mary Niese, of Putnam county; John Henry, March 6, 1883, who married Anna Maas, of Putnam county; Elziabeth, September 20, 1885, died on September 21, 1885. Three years after the death of his wife, Mr. Schumaker was married to Mary Ann Rechline (November 8, 1888), who was the daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth (Honamann) Rechline, and was born in Putnam county. To this second union were born three children, Anthony, on October 14, 1889, died on June 3, 1904; Mary Elizabeth, May 12, 1892, and now the wife of Matthew Gerdeman, of Kalida, this county; Katherine Elnora, March 23, 1894, who lives under the parental roof and is single.

Soon after his second marriage, Joseph J. Schumaker sold the original farm on which he had lived and purchased another tract in the same township, containing eighty acres, and, subsequently to which was added forty acres, giving a total of one hundred and twenty acres. This is now occupied as the home place and for general farming purposes and the raising of cattle and hogs, it has no superior. Considerable improvement was necessary to make this farm highly productive, but the installation of a system of drainage and other up-to-date methods, brought the place up to the highest

point of efficiency for the purposes intended. Many new buildings have been erected, at considerable cost, and, in 1899, a barn forty by seventy feet was built. Earnest application to the work in hand, the study of modern methods and careful management, made this farm quite a little above the ordinary undertaking that comes under the observation of the historian.

Personally, Mr. Schumaker, having spent the greater portion of his life in this neighborhood, and attending strictly to his own interests, is looked upon by those who know him as a man of exemplary habits, absolutely fair in his dealings, and one whom it is a pleasure and a privilege to know intimately. He has always been a Democrat, though he does not take an aggressive interest in party affairs, and for the past thirty years has served well his community as a member of the local school board. Much might be said of the two wives who were always of such great assistance and encouragement to him, and, at all times proved most valuable in all of his undertakings. The second Mrs. Schumaker lived until August 20, 1907, when she passed away. The family are members of Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic church, of Ottawa, to which they lend support according to their means.

WILLIAM KOHLS.

Following is a brief sketch of the career of William Kohls, well-known citizen of Putnam county, Ohio, and a descendant of some of the earliest settlers of this county. The family name has been prominent in the affairs of the county for many years and has always stood for that which is honorable and upright in every phase of life. Both those of past generations and the present day have contributed their quota to the esteem in which the name is regarded and each has done his part toward promoting the welfare of the community in which his life was cast.

William Kohls was born in Glandorf, Ohio, on November 1, 1838, a son of Henry and Mary Ann (Kottebrock) Kohls, both of whom were born in Lutten, Oldenburg, Germany, the former on October 15, 1794, and the latter in 1800. Henry Kohls came to America in 1831, accompanied by his family, his mother and the father of his wife. At that time, there were but two children in the family, Catherine and Elizabeth, two having previously died in the Fatherland. One of these was a little son named Arnold and the other a child who died in earliest infancy. Upon reaching the shores of America, the family for a time lived in Baltimore, Maryland, and from

there went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they remained but one year. The next move was to Cincinnati, where they stayed for three years and where the father-in-law died and was buried. After leaving Cincinnati, the family settled in Putnam county, and this has since been their home. They reached that locality about the year 1835, and, not very long after coming here, Henry Kohls' mother passed away and was laid to rest in Glandorf cemetery. There were several children born to the family, after reaching this county, the first being John, who first saw the light of day while the family was living in Pittsburgh. After reaching this county, Henry, William, Anthony and Herman came into existence.

Of William Kohls' brothers and sisters, Catherine became the wife of Joseph Kuhlman, who served in an Ohio regiment during the Civil War, and who died while in the army, leaving her with three children, Hieronymus, Catherine and Theresa. Hieronymus became a priest, Catherine married John Kaple and is now living in Ottawa, this county, and Theresa married Joseph Bauhans and lives in Henry county, this state. Elizabeth, an elder sister, married Henry Closterman and resides in Cincinnati. She is the mother of nine children: Joseph; Henry; Charles, deceased; Josephine; Clare; Julia, deceased; Elizabeth; Edward, and Pearl. John, the first child born in this country, married Margaret Hessling, who bore him five children, namely: Catherine; Henry; John; William, deceased, and Bernard, whose death occurred on September 1, 1911, his wife having died previously. Four children mourned their departure. Henry, the first child born in this county, lives at Nashville, Tennessee, and is the father of five children: Charles, Amanda, Johanna, William and Maude. The next child in order of birth is William, the immediate subject of this sketch, and after him comes Anthony, who married Theresa Klinkhammer. Anthony was born on March 2, 1839, and died on August 5, 1878. He was the father of five children: Henry, Anthony, August, Ferdinand and one child who died when quite small. Herman, the younger of the brothers, married Ann von Lehinder, who bore him nine children, namely: Elizabeth, deceased; Louis; Sylvester; Emma; Flora; Cora; Arthur; Ella, deceased, and Philip, also deceased. Herman passed from this life on March 4, 1902. William Kohls received his education in the common schools of Glandorf, and in early life assisted the father in the work about the home farm. In 1865, on May 10, he was united in marriage to Mary Rothman, born near Glandorf, and a daughter of Francis H. and Margaret (Fasken) Rothman. Francis H. Rothman was a native of the Fatherland, having been born on October 10, 1806, in Steinfeld, Oldenburg, Germany, and through the death of his

father, when he was but eight years of age, he was early thrown on his own resources. In early youth, he was a ship carpenter and while on a cruise, was ship-wrecked about twenty miles off the coast of Maryland. He reached Baltimore on November 22, 1833, and from there he went to Memphis and later to Cincinnati, where he secured work on steamboats. He later came to Dayton, and finally, permanently located in Glandorf. In the meantime, Professor Horstman had secured a tract of land for him, containing forty acres, and upon this he settled and set about clearing it and putting it in a good state of cultivation. He was succeeding well in his undertaking when, in 1836, he sent to the Fatherland for his relatives and his mother, Mary Elizabeth, who, accompanied by her daughter and her brother, Herman Anton Rohe, soon joined him. His mother did not live long after coming to this country, passing away on April 27, 1840, and was buried at Ft. Jennings, this state. His uncle, Mr. Rohe, died on May 17, 1855, and was buried in Glandorf cemetery.

About 1830, Margaret Fasken, who afterward married Francis Rothman, came to America from her native land of Germany, and while living in Cincinnati, met her future husband. Shortly before his relatives came to this country, she came to Glandorf to meet him and they were united in marriage on April 20, 1836, by Professor Horstman. The living to be obtained at that time was very meager, but Mr. Rothman was possessed of ambition and industry and soon had a good start in life. Into their little home the children soon came, Frank, born on November 21, 1837, died on April 20, 1893; Anna Mary, wife of our immediate subject, born on December 21, 1840, and Wilhelmina, December 18, 1842, died on July 29, 1912. During his lifetime, Mr. Rothman was active in public affairs and served as county auditor from 1861 to 1865. His death occurred on April 30, 1896, while his wife died on October 22, 1874, at the age of seventy years. Of their children, Frank married Caroline Drerup and upon her death he chose as his second wife, Anna von Lehinder, who died on September 3, 1909. The second union was blessed with nine children, namely: Mary, Frank, Bernard, Emma, Jennie, Colletta, Julius, Arnold, deceased, and Florence, deceased. Frank was a man largely active in the public affairs of the county, serving as sheriff from 1882 to 1886. His death occurred on April 20, 1893. Anna Mary, the subject's wife, is the second child of the family in order of birth, and Wilhelmina, the youngest, married William Feltman and became the mother of the following children: Henry; Frank, deceased; Bernard, deceased; Mary; William; Anna; Catherine; Theresa; Ignatius, and Louis.

Shortly after his marriage, William Kohls took up his residence on

the Blanchard river, where he had purchased a tract of land containing sixty-six acres. There the family lived until 1882, when he purchased a tract of ninety acres, located near his first farm, and there they lived until 1902, when he practically retired from the more active affairs of life and took up his residence in Ottawa, where he and his good wife are passing their declining days in comfortable repose. He still, however, owns one hundred and ninety-six acres of excellent farm land in the county.

To William and Anna Mary (Rothman) Kohls have been born the following children: William H., on December 30, 1866; Frank J., March 12, 1869; Charles E., March 1, 1871; Mary S., May 17, 1873; Jerome, January 24, 1876; Edward B., July 8, 1878, died on October 30, 1912, and Emma P., January 25, 1883. William H., married Josephine Doecker and lives at Akron. They are the parents of seven children, Stanley, Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Agnes and Bernadina; Frank married Caroline Alterkruse and resides in Ottawa; Charles E. married Anna Alterkruse and also resides in Ottawa. They are the parents of eleven children, namely: Gilbert, born on January 21, 1901; Francis M., February 18, 1902; Paul W., May 28, 1903; Franklin J., August 20, 1904, and died on February 11th of the year following; Cletus, November 8, 1905; Hugo, June 9, 1907, died June 6, 1915; Rosemary, May 20, 1908; Lucile, November 5, 1909; Donelda, June 2, 1911; Alexa, April 8, 1913, and Charles E., June 30, 1914.

Mary S., eldest daughter of William Kohls, married George Higley, and resides in this county. She is the mother of five children: William, Clarence, Howard, Mary and Agnes. Jerome, who married Elizabeth Earhart, lives in Isabelle county, Michigan. They have five children: Helen, Genevieve, Mary, Richard and Vivian; Edward married Mary Earhart and resided in this county up to the time of his death, on October 30, 1912, leaving two children: Alphonse and Gordon; Emma, the youngest of the family, married Gustave Schwartz, of Akron, Ohio. They are the parents of four children, Frank, Mary, Cornelius and Lawrence.

Of William Kohls' children, Frank and Charles have, through their public services, achieved prominence and an excellent reputation throughout this county. Frank attended the college at Ada for two terms, and Charles studied at that same institution of learning for one term. Frank taught school in this county from 1888 to 1895, and Charles from 1889 to 1897, and another brother, William H., taught school from 1888-1893. For a time, Frank and Charles were in the hotel business in Ottawa, after laying aside their duties as instructors of youth, and on September 6, 1909, Frank took office as county treasurer of Putnam county, which office he filled for two

terms, his brother Charles serving as his chief deputy. After the expiration of Frank's last term, Charles, who had been elected to succeed him, took his office on September 13, 1913, and appointed his brother Frank as his chief deputy. Charles was re-elected in 1914, and Frank continues to serve him as chief deputy. This is surely a most unusual circumstance and throughout their terms of service, both brothers have discharged the obligations of their office in a most worthy and commendable manner. Both being born and reared in this county, where they are well known and count their friends by the score. They are Democrat in politics and are among the best workers that party has in this section. The Kohls family are communicants of the Roman Catholic church, being of the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul.

FRANK W. HELMKAMP.

The nations of the world have contributed their best blood to the population of this country, but no nation has given to it better citizens or more loyal subjects than Germany. The various revolutions which occurred in that country in the nineteenth century, while they were unfortunate for the Fatherland, were, on the other hand, a blessing to America, for, during the time of these revolutions, thousands of the best German people fled to the United States and became eager citizens of this country. No more patriotic citizens fought for the North during the Civil War than did the thousands of German soldiers who enlisted under the Stars and Stripes and fought for their newly adopted country. Wherever a German settlement is found in this country, thrift and progress are sure to be seen. Among the many German families who came to this country in the early days of its history, the Helmkamp family occupies a prominent place. Frank W. Helmkamp, although a native-born American, is descended from sterling German parents.

Frank W. Helmkamp was born in Jennings township on August 18, 1853, the son of William and Anna M. (Wrocklage) Helmkamp, the former of whom was born in Hanover, Germany, the son of Christopher Helmkamp, who was born in Hanover in 1779, and who came to the United States in 1836, settling on a farm near Glandorf, in Putnam county, Ohio. Christopher Helmkamp lived in the latter place for two years, when the family moved to Jennings township, Putnam county, and settled on a farm southwest of Ft. Jennings, in 1838, where Christopher Helmkamp died in 1851. His wife,

who was a Miss Shimmoeller, died in 1857. Frank W. Helmkamp's mother, who was Anna M. Wrocklage, before her marriage, was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to the United States with her parents, who settled at Delphos, Ohio. Here her parents both died in the same year; the father on April 9, 1846, and the mother on October 2, 1846. William and Anna M. (Wrocklage) Helmkamp were the parents of five children: Elizabeth, born on December 3, 1848, is unmarried and lives at Cincinnati; Ferdinand J., July 11, 1850, lives at Delphos; Frank W., with whom this narrative deals; Theodore J., June 9, 1862, lives at Delphos; Mary T., May 4, 1864, died on October 22, 1870.

William Helmkamp was engaged in farming until 1870, when he embarked in the mercantile business, in Ottoville, continuing in this line until his death in 1881. The family conducted the business for four years after his death. The mother died on July 20, 1898.

Receiving a common school education, in 1877 Frank Helmkamp was married to Louisa Schlagbaum, a daughter of George and Dorothy (Hille) Schlagbaum, both natives of Germany. This marriage took place on May 8, 1877. George Schlagbaum was born in Prussia, and came to the United States when he was about twenty years of age. He lived in Cincinnati for six years, where he was married. His wife, Dorothy Hille, was also a native of Germany, who came to the United States and located in Cincinnati, when sixteen years of age. George and Dorothy (Hille) Schlagbaum were the parents of ten children: Barney, Lucy, Mary, Anna and William lived to maturity. Anna died in 1898. The parents moved to Putnam county in 1855, and settled on a farm east of Ottoville. The father died in 1886, and the mother in 1895.

To Frank W. and Louisa (Schlagbaum) Helmkamp five children have been born: Anna M., on March 6, 1878, is the wife of Joseph H. Shuerman, of Jennings township; Dora T., October 23, 1879, is living at home; Ferd G., November 22, 1881, also lives at home; Joseph T., December 9, 1883, lives at Canton, where he is a mechanic; William B., June 6, 1886, is an architect living at Akron.

Mr. Helmkamp is the owner of one hundred and fifty-three acres of land in section 6, of Jennings township. This farm is known as the Maple Ridge farm, has modern buildings and is as good a farm as can be found in the state of Ohio. Mr. Helmkamp has drained it well and maintains it in a very high state of cultivation. He raises a high grade of cattle and thoroughbred Mule-foot hogs. Maple Ridge farm is located about two miles southwest of Ft. Jennings, and not very far from Delphos.

Mr. Helmkamp is a Democrat. He has served the people of his township as trustee for a period of twelve years. He and his family are all devout members of the Catholic church and belong to the church at Ft. Jennings.

Mr. Helmkamp is a successful farmer. He is surrounded with all the comforts of life and has every reason to look upon his career as a success, yet he is public-spirited in everything that he does, and is honored by the people of the community where he lives.

JOHN E. DEFFENBAUGH.

Among the honorable and influential citizens of Putnam county is John E. Deffenbaugh, who has here maintained his home for many years, winning a definite success by means of the agricultural industry to which he has devoted his attention during the years of an active business life. His career has been without shadow of wrong and thus he has ever commanded the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

John E. Deffenbaugh was born in Jennings township, Putnam county, on March 20, 1869, the son of Albert G. and Mary E. (Rohrer) Deffenbaugh. Albert G. Deffenbaugh was born in Sugar Creek township on February 2, 1840, and was the son of John and Anna (Parshall) Deffenbaugh. John Deffenbaugh was a native of Fayette county, Pennsylvania, born on October 26, 1806, and was the son of Jacob and Eve (Everly) Deffenbaugh. He was a farmer by occupation and was twice married. First to Anna Parshall, the daughter of Elias and Nancy (Struble) Parshall. She was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, March 22, 1811, their married occurring on June 24, 1829. To them were born nine children; Nancy, on May 26, 1831, deceased; Jacob, August 2, 1833, deceased; William, November 19, 1835, died on January 10, 1837; Joseph, October 22, 1837; Albert G., February 2, 1840, died on June 27, 1914; Amanda, born April 2, 1842; Lewis M., November 27, 1845, deceased; Emily J., June 10, 1847; John H., December 11, 1849. John Deffenbaugh was married, the second time, on May 27, 1879, in Van Wert county, to Mary A. Stouder, the daughter of Jacob and Jane (Fitch) Stouder. She was born in Fairfield county, on May 27, 1818. John Deffenbaugh was for many years active in public life, having served as justice of the peace for twenty-seven years, county commissioner for six years, county auditor for four years and filled various

local offices at different times, always to the entire satisfaction of his fellow citizens.

Albert G. Deffenbaugh was born in Sugar Creek township on the old John Deffenbaugh homestead and there grew to manhood. He remained at home until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, on the first call for troops, he enlisted as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Eighteenth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in which he became a corporal. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland and Company D was under the immediate command of Captain Taylor. Mr. Deffenbaugh enlisted first for ninety days and later for three years, serving in all four years, lacking four days. He saw much active service and participated in many important engagements, including the battle of Resaca, and retired from military service with an honorable record. After the close of the war, he returned home and, on April 19, 1865, was married to Mary E. Rohrer, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, on December 30, 1844, the daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Muma) Rohrer. Her father was born in Maryland in 1822 and was killed on November 19, 1866, by a falling tree. Her mother was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1827. After his marriage, Albert G. Deffenbaugh worked at the carpenter trade and also operated a saw-mill with his brother, Jacob. He also operated mills in Jennings and Sugar Creek townships for a number of years, and, in 1873, went to Nemaha county, Kansas, where he remained for three years. Returning then to Putnam county, he settled on a farm three miles northeast of Rimer, where he remained for about fifteen years, and then, selling the place, rented a farm for two years, one-half mile east of Rimer. He then retired from active business and moved to Delphos, where he resided for five years, eventually locating in Rimer, where his death occurred on June 27, 1914. His wife, John E. Deffenbaugh's mother, came with her parents to Putnam county when a girl, the family settling one mile north of Rimer, in Jennings township, and there she resided until her marriage. To her parents were born eleven children, Mary E.; Sarah A.; Jacob C. and John H., twins; Daniel W.; William J.; Franklin P.; Samuel; Susan C.; Charles and Emma Jane. To Albert G. and Mary E. (Rohrer) Deffenbaugh were born seven children, Asa E., John E.; Louis S., deceased; Ada E.; Roy C.; Lizzie M., deceased, and William B.

John E. Deffenbaugh was reared in Jennings and Sugar Creek townships, with the exception of three years, when the family resided in Kansas, and he received his education in the common schools. After attaining his majority, he entered into the machinery business and has operated a

thrashing machine, a well-drilling machine and other mechanical lines in which he has met with splendid success. After his marriage, in 1892, Mr. Deffenbaugh spent two years on his grandfather's homestead and then moved to Columbus Grove, where he resided one year. Later, he returned to Rimer, where he has resided ever since. He has been successful in whatever he has undertaken and has earned the regard of all who know him.

On April 14, 1892, Mr. Deffenbaugh was united in marriage to Mollie Wood, who was born in Allen county, December 13, 1867, the daughter of Sanford B. and Susan (Trice) Wood. To this union have been born three children: Luda D., on April 4, 1894; Ada M., September 12, 1895; and a son who died at birth.

Mr. Deffenbaugh is a Democrat and has long been known as one of the influential citizens of his locality. His religious affiliations are with the Ottawa River Christian church, in which he is prominent, being the president of the ministerial committee and choir leader. Mrs. Deffenbaugh is also an interested member of this denomination. Mr. Deffenbaugh, in the fullest sense of the term, a progressive, self-made American, thoroughly in harmony with the spirit of the advanced age in which he lives, conducting all of his business matters carefully and systematically and in all of his acts displaying an aptitude for successful management. A sympathetic and broad-minded man, he has a host of warm and admiring friends and is numbered among the truly progressive men of his community.

CHARLES H. HUFFMAN.

The decrease in the number of persons engaged in agriculture—the number of food producers—is striking. Since 1880 there has been a steady decline from forty-four and four-tenths per cent. to thirty-two and nine-tenths per cent. in 1910. The percentage of professional people has shown a slight gain, and the percentage of persons in domestic and personal service shows a considerable falling off in the last decade, amounting in all to five and two-tenths per cent. On the contrary, the percentage of persons engaged in mechanical and manufacturing pursuits who are non-producers wholly of the raw materials for food, increased from twenty-one and eight-tenths per cent. in 1880 to twenty-eight and three-tenths per cent. in 1910. More striking still is the deduction from these figures that, whereas, in 1880, there were forty-four and four-tenths per cent. of the population to feed a re-

mainder of fifty-five and six-tenths per cent., in 1910 there was only thirty-two and nine-tenths per cent. of the working population to feed a remainder of sixty-seven and one-tenth per cent. For some reason the active and successful farmers have been moving into the small towns and into the cities. Charles H. Huffman, a well-known auctioneer of Putnam county, Ohio, and who for many years was a successful farmer of Sugar Creek township, is one of those farmers who have lately removed to town, and who is now following exclusively the profession which he formerly followed incidentally, while living on the farm.

Charles H. Huffman, formerly a well-known farmer and for many years a well-known auctioneer of Putnam county, was born in Springfield, Ohio, on June 20, 1868. He is the son of Frederick and Mary (Eickhoff) Huffman. Frederick Huffman was born in Germany on May 17, 1833, and was the son of William Huffman and wife. William Huffman was a farmer in Germany, where he owned a farm. He was the father of five sons and one daughter. Frederick, the father of Charles H.; Christian; William; Henry; Charles, and Elizabeth. All of these children came to America. The only surviving members of the family is Frederick, the father of Charles H.

Frederick Huffman came to America at the age of twenty in July, 1853, making the voyage on a sailing vessel in forty-eight days. He came first to Ohio, and located in Dayton, where he was employed on the farm. He remained there for a year or two, and then removed to Greene county, where he continued to work on the farm for three or four years. He then engaged in the grocery business in Springfield for several years. At the age of thirty years, in March, 1864, he was married to Mary Eickhoff, who was born near Dayton, on March 28, 1847. She was the daughter of Henry Eickhoff and wife, both of whom were natives of Hanover, Germany. The former was a farmer. He came to America shortly after their marriage and settled near Dayton, where, shortly afterwards, his daughter Mary was born. Two weeks later, her mother died, and Henry Eickhoff was later married to Dora Huffman. By this second union there were eight children, three sons and five daughters. Henry Eickhoff lived and died on the eighty-acre farm near Dayton, which was the birthplace of Mr. Huffman's mother. She grew to womanhood on this farm and here remained until her marriage.

Frederick Huffman, after his marriage, moved to Tiptecanoe, Miami county, and there engaged in teaming. Later, he rented a farm and resided in Tiptecanoe for several years. In the fall of 1882, he moved to Sugar Creek township, where he rented two different farms. Five years afterward he moved to Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, and spent one year,

one and one-half miles north of Vaughnsville, and then moved to a farm one and one-half miles southeast of that place. Here he resided on the old Michael farm for nine years, or until 1897, when he purchased forty acres of the old John Slusser farm, where he now resides. Frederick Huffman and wife are members of the Christian church. He is a Democrat in politics. Frederick and Mary (Eickhoff) Huffman have had nine children, four of whom died in infancy. William died on May 12, 1913; Charles H. is the subject of this sketch; Dora is still living; Matilda is the wife of J. H. Purnell and Albert is still living.

Charles H. Huffman was born in Springfield, Ohio, and spent his childhood in that city and in Miami county. The latter part of his youth was spent in Allen county. After finishing the common schools he helped his father on the farm and remained with him until about thirty-two years of age. The following three years he was engaged in the machine business in Ottawa and Columbus Grove.

At the age of thirty-five, or on March 18, 1903, Mr. Huffman was married to Emma Smith, who was born in Sugar Creek township, Putnam county, on November 1, 1875, and who was the daughter of James F. and Eliza (Slusser) Smith. The former was born in Putnam county on May 10, 1843, and was a son of James Smith and wife. James Smith was a native of Virginia, who came to Putnam county at an early day. The reader is here referred to the parental history of the Smith family, found in the sketch of Charles Smith, a grandson of James Smith, contained elsewhere in this volume. Eliza Slusser was born in Shelby county, Ohio, on January 7, 1845, and died on December 16, 1907. She came with her parents to Putnam county as a child and here lived until her marriage. With the exception of about one year in Allen county, she spent the remainder of her life in Putnam county. James F. and Elizabeth (Slusser) Smith had eleven children, ten of whom lived to maturity and still survive. They are as follows: Ira; James and Joseph, twins; Alice; Benjamin; Emma, the wife of Mr. Huffman; Ida; Anna, who died on October 3, 1895, at the age of fifteen; Luella; Jennie, and Jesse.

Mrs. Emma Huffman spent her girlhood on the old Smith homestead until a short time before her marriage, when she removed to Columbus Grove.

After his marriage, Mr. Huffman continued to work in the machine business at Columbus Grove for about five years. He then moved to a farm of eighty acres, one and one-half miles north and east of Vaughnsville. This farm he bought two years previously. Mr. Huffman remained on the farm

for about five years, which is improved by a commodious seven-room residence and a large modern barn, forty by eighty feet. It has a cattle barn also, seventy-eight by thirty-two feet, and other buildings in keeping with the surroundings. Mr. Huffman was engaged in general farming and paid especial attention to hogs and horses. In January, 1914, Mr. and Mrs. Huffman removed to Vaughnsville, where he now resides. In addition to his other interests, Mr. Huffman has been an auctioneer for the past sixteen or seventeen years. He has been very successful in this profession.

Charles H. and Emma (Smith) Huffman have one child, Herbert Harry, born on July 18, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman attend the Christian church. Mrs. Huffman is a member of this church. Mr. Huffman is a Democrat. He was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for sheriff in Putnam county, in 1914. Fraternally, he is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, and belongs to Rufus Lodge No. 364. He is a member of Columbus Grove Lodge No. 464, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Vaughnsville Lodge No. 711, Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Improved Order of Red Men at Kalida. Charles H. Huffman is a prominent, influential citizen throughout this section of Putnam county. He is also well known in adjoining counties in his professional capacity.

FRANK W. RUEN.

There is no occupation which gives a man the independence of life and which brings him closer to nature than does farming. In pioneer times, farmers found their work very much of a drudgery, but with all modern improvements, the farmer is relieved of much of the hard work which was the portion of his forefathers. Farming has arisen in dignity until now it is often referred to as a profession rather than as an occupation. Fifty years the science of agriculture was in its infancy, and to think that a man was compelled to take a course in college in order to succeed as a farmer was absurd, yet today our colleges are teaching agriculture as a science and are turning out thousands of young men who are well trained in the scientific methods of farming. Putnam county is one of the oldest counties in the state, consequently has many fine farms and good farmers within its borders. Among the enterprising and progressive farmers of Putnam county there is none who stands higher in the esteem of his fellow citizens than does Frank W. Ruen, of Monterey township.

Frank W. Ruen was born in Monterey township, Putnam county, Ohio,

September 2, 1878. He is a son of William and Sybilla (Furst) Ruen. William Ruen was a native of Germany, born in 1824, and on November 1, 1914, was ninety years of age. Hale, hearty and in good health. The oldest resident in Putnam county, he is deeply interested in the great war in the old country. Each day he reads the newspapers, carefully following each succeeding event in the great struggle for supremacy. William Ruen served under Frederick William in 1848 against the Revolutionists, and as a consequence realizes to the full the significance of this great clash of the nations. He came to the United States and located first in Cincinnati in 1860, where he lived until 1862, when he was married to Freda Honerbaum. They were the parents of four children, three of whom are still living, Anton, the first-born, died at the age of forty-two, at Granite City, Illinois; William, Jr., lives at Cloverdale, Putnam county; Henry lives at Ottoville and Mary is the wife of John Furst, living near Ottoville on a farm. After the marriage of William Ruen, he came to Putnam county and settled in Monterey township, where he worked for one year for William Reckart. He then purchased forty acres of land in section 19, of Monterey township. Mrs. Ruen died about 1875, and subsequently, William Ruen married Sybilla Furst, to which union five children were born, three of whom are still living, Frank W., the eldest; Theresa, who died at the age of six weeks; Paul, who died at the age of two years; Anna, the wife of Gustavus Trenkamp, of Monterey township; Addie, the wife of Joseph Schmiersal, of Greensburg township. The mother of these children died on July 23, 1896. William Ruen now lives with his son, Frank W.

Frank W. Ruen received a common-school education and when he was about twenty-five years old, took possession of his father's farm. He has improved this place by building a barn and other outbuildings, suitable for modern farming. The house has also been remodeled, and he now has a very attractive and pleasant home. Mr. Ruen makes a specialty of thoroughbred Hampshire hogs, as well as a very high grade of other live stock, and has been very successful in his efforts in this line.

Frank W. Ruen was married on June 7, 1904, to Mary Schlagbaum, a daughter of Barney and Clara (Grewe) Schlagbaum. Barney Schlagbaum was born in Cincinnati. His wife was a native of Germany, and came with her parents, when a girl of six years, to America. Barney Schlagbaum and his wife are still living in Monterey township.

To Frank W. and Mary (Schlagbaum) Ruen four children have been born, all of whom are living, Alex, on January 28, 1906; Helen, May 9, 1909; Martha, September 25, 1913, and Marcella, February 11, 1915.

Mr. Ruen and his family are all members of the Catholic church of Ottoville. He is a member of the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and in politics is a Democrat. He was elected for the first term as trustee of Monterey township in 1912, and so efficient was his service that he was re-elected in 1914. He is now serving as president of the township board. Frank W. Ruen is a man of more than average influence in his community. He is highly respected for his native interest in all good works and is a valuable citizen of any community.

CHARLES HENRY MEYER.

When a man is referred to by his fellow men as an industrious, upright, honorable and progressive citizen of the community in which he lives, and is regarded a success in life by his neighbors, it is then that the chronicler of worth-while events begins an investigation and determines, in his own mind, whether or not great credit is due. As a caption for this review, we have the name of a man who stands for everything in the advancement and welfare of the people and whose personal achievements are worthy of mention in a historical work, where they can be referred to by the coming generation.

Charles Henry Meyer was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, September 16, 1871, and is the son of George H. and Mary (Schroeder) Meyer. His father was a native of Putnam county, Ottawa township, and was born on his father's farm on February 7, 1846, where he grew to manhood and received his early education in the township schools. The original farm contained eighty acres in Liberty township, and was always considered a good piece of land for general farming purposes. George H. Meyer is still living and resides on this farm, to which he added more land from time to time, the total of which was two hundred eleven acres and from which eighty acres was sold by him to the subject of this sketch. The father's homestead is situated in Liberty township, and the eighty acres which was sold lies in Pleasant township, this county. The father has continued farming all of his life and is considered a man of sterling quality, honesty and good business ability, industrious and interested in the welfare of the community. He served on the school board for a number of years, and was elected to the office of township supervisor, in which capacity he served for several years, to the satisfaction of the people interested. Religiously, he is an active member of the Catholic church in New Cleveland, Ohio, and

of which his family are devout members. Mr. Meyer's mother was a native of Greensburg township, this county, being the daughter of Charles Schroeder, and was born on April 23, 1852. She was married in November, 1870, to subject's father and is still living. To their union were born thirteen children, as follow: Charles Henry, Mary (Mrs. Kuhlman), of Blanchard township; Theodore, of Blanchard township; Anna (deceased), Tracy (Mrs. Edward Kuhlman), of Ottawa township; Katherine (Mrs. Barney Kettles), of Ottawa township; John, who lives in North Dakota; Benjamin, of Blanchard township; Fronia (Mrs. Frank Schmiedebusch), of Liberty township; Agnes (Mrs. John Schmenk), of Blanchard township; Hiram, Andrew and Edward, the last two named are living on the homestead farm.

Charles H. Meyer spent his early boyhood days about his father's farm in Ottawa township and received his education in the township schools. He assisted in clearing the original tract and made himself generally useful thereon, until after the time of his marriage, when he purchased eighty acres from his father and began the erection of a home for himself and family, including the necessary barn and outbuildings, and otherwise improved the place for general farming purposes. This land required considerable ditching and draining and has been cleared, with the exception of ten acres of standing timber. The home is a modern brick structure, both commodious and comfortable, and gives the observer an impression of prosperity.

Mr. Meyer's marriage to Anna Ellerbrock took place October 14, 1896. She was the daughter of Ferdinand and Thracia (Klemm) Ellerbrock, the former having come to this country from Germany, with his parents when he was a lad of seven years of age. The parental grandparents, Theodore and Catherine (Trocke) Ellerbrock, coming to this country from Germany, settled near the town of Glandorf, Ohio, on forty acres of wild and uncleared land and worked on the canal which was nearby. Ferdinand Ellerbrock remained on this original forty acres and to which he added forty acres more prior to his death, on December 25, 1914, at the age of eighty-two years. He proved himself a good, substantial farmer and was highly esteemed by those who knew him, being noted for honesty and integrity of character; he was a true German, kind and loving, and a good provider for his family. His wife was a native of Ottawa township, this county, and a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Gerdeman) Klemm. To them were born eleven children, Catherine (Mrs. Meyer, deceased), Mary (Mrs. Barney Schmenk, Liberty township), Elizabeth (Mrs. Joseph Meyer, Liberty township), Theodore (deceased), Joseph, of Pleasant township; Andrew, who lives on the home place; Anna (subject's wife), born November 19, 1875;

Tracey (Mrs. Theodore Meyers, Blanchard township); Benjamin, who lives on the home place; Lucy (Mrs. Henry F. Weiss, Ottawa township), and Agnes (Mrs. Anthony Weiss, of Ottawa township). To the marriage of Charles Henry Meyer and wife have been born the following children: Henry, Martha, Francis (a deceased infant), Mary, Agnes, Clara (a deceased infant), and Alfred.

Politically, Mr. Meyer is a Democrat but he has never had aspirations to hold an office, though, previous to his resignation in 1910, he had served on the local school board for ten years. He gives his support to the Catholic religion and the family are regular members of the church of that denomination in Columbus Grove. Personally, Mr. Meyer is a hard worker and is well thought of in the community; he is a firm believer in modern farming methods, and gives considerable study to machinery inventions for the saving of labor on the farm. He does not belong to societies of any kind, but is glad to consider every worthy fellow man as a brother and to render assistance to those who need it.

FRANK H. DOEPKER.

The vocation of blacksmith has ever been a prominent one in the industries of this country and from the trade of the blacksmith has come the "arm and hammer" familiar to all, symbol of strength and honesty. One of the prominent citizens of Putnam county who is engaged in this occupation is Frank H. Doepker, who, because of his skill in his chosen vocation, is well known throughout this and adjoining counties.

Frank H. Doepker was born in Glandorf, this county, on April 8, 1867, a son of Joseph F. and Mary (Marmon) Doepker. Joseph F., father of Frank H., was a native of Germany, born in Glandorf, near Osuabrick, on November 12, 1836, and he emigrated to this country when a youth of sixteen years. He had received a good education in his native land, for a youth of his years and, almost immediately upon reaching the shores of this country, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, and took up his residence in Glandorf. At that time that town was comparatively young, having been settled by a colony of Germans, under the leadership of the renowned Father Horstman. Near Glandorf, Joseph F. engaged in farming and about the time of the beginning of the Civil War, together with an uncle, named Maag, he took up government land, about one and one-half miles north of Ottawa, this

county. There he remained for four years, at which time he moved to Ottawa and engaged in teaming and trucking. After several years spent in this manner, during which time he acquired a competency but suffered the loss of his health, he moved to Akron, this state, where he has since made his home with a daughter.

Joseph H. Doecker was married to Mary Marmon, who was born in this county in 1839, and whose death occurred in September, 1882. She was a daughter of Anton and Dorothy (Trent) Marmon, both natives of Germany, who were married in Hanover and in 1835 emigrated to this country, bringing with them their family of six little children. They located in Glandorf within a year after its settlement, and for a time the father worked on the construction of a canal in this county and, later, took up farming, purchasing the farm where John Marmon now lives, and passed much of his life there. This was virgin soil when he first obtained possession of it and the family endured the hardships and privations of the pioneer of that day. They cleared the land, erected the small cabin of pioneer days, cooked in the fire-place in winter and out of doors in summer, wove the materials for their own clothing, and in spite of all the hard work managed somehow to secure education and make for themselves some social intercourse with adjoining neighbors. There were nine children in all in the family. Those born in Germany were: Henry, William, Joseph, Christian, Frederick and Frank, and after settling in this county John, Mary (mother of Frank H.), and Bernadina, came to join the family circle. The father passed from this life in 1875 and the mother remained with the children until 1892, when she, too, laid aside the burden of the flesh. Both were devout members of the Catholic church, being of the parish of St. John, at Glandorf.

Joseph Doecker is the eldest member of the family, Frank H. being the second eldest, the other children being William, Josephine, John, Addie and Margaret. Joseph married Mary Konst, who has borne him three children, Mark, Lawrence and Irma. Josephine became the wife of William Kohls and has seven children; Stanislaus, deceased; Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Agnes and Gertrude. John chose as his life companion Mary Horstman and their children are Cornelius, Norman, Mary, Arnold, Elmora, Delphinus, Edward and Dorothy. Addie became the wife of Charles Robernalt and Margaret remains single.

Frank, our subject, received his education in the common schools of Putnam county and, after leaving school he secured employment in a wheel factory, where he remained for about six years. By that time, he had de-

cided that in that line there was nothing in store for him in the future, and, possessing ambition to secure a competence for himself in the world, he decided the best course to pursue was to apprentice himself to a trade. Accordingly, he selected that of blacksmithing as his life's vocation and in 1888 became an apprentice to this trade. He served for four years, when he embarked in business in partnership with his brother, Joseph. This partnership continued throughout fourteen years, when his brother retired from the firm and was succeeded by Frederick Lory and, later, by Mathias Schmenk, who is still a partner, the firm style now being Doecker & Schmenk. Throughout the years the business has been so conducted as to win the good will and patronage of the farmers throughout a large section.

Mr. Doecker's marriage took place on November 20, 1896, when he was united in wedlock with Katherine Noon, of Miller City, this county. She is a daughter of Patrick and Mary Noon, both natives of the Emerald Isle, who, emigrating to this country, located near Columbus, in Franklin county, this state. They remained there but a comparatively short time, however, and forty-one years ago came to Putnam county, where they engaged in farming. Their children are: Patrick, John, Elizabeth, Cecelia and Delia, Thomas and Mary. Thomas first married Abbie Perky and, after her death, chose Emma Mann as his second wife. He is the father of five children, Elizabeth, Edward, Philip, Charles and Wilfred. Mary became the wife of Daniel Dangler and the mother of five children, Effie, Chester, Irvin, Homer and Lucile; Patrick married Hattie Robinson and his children are Harry, Elmer, Alvera and an infant son; John chose Mary Wagner as his wife, who bore him the following children, Anna, deceased; Albert, May, deceased; Arthur, Edna and Lawrence; Edward married Josephine Rech-tine and has one child, Lucile; Cecelia is the wife of Frank Kerner and the mother of Mary Agnes, Cornelius and Loretta; Delia became the wife of Thomas Ducey and is without children.

Frank H. and wife are the parents of the following children: Lillian, born on February 12, 1896, who, after completing her high school course, fitted herself for a teacher and is now teaching in the school at Kiefersville; Arthur, born on June 16, 1898, remains at home and assists his father in the blacksmith business, and Mary Elizabeth, born on January 12, 1906.

Mr. Doecker is a progressive man in his business, his establishment being equipped with all modern devices. The mechanical section of the shop is operated by electricity and he also owns one of the latest acetylene welding devices. The business is a successful venture, due largely to his untiring industry and excellent workmanship. He holds his religious membership

with the Catholic church and his fraternal affiliation with the Modern Woodmen and Catholic Knights of Ohio. He is a Democrat in politics, but exercises independent views in such matters. The family is considered among the most substantial and most highly respected of this county.

BERNARD LEOPOLD.

One of the best-remembered business men and farmers of the past generation in Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, was the late Bernard Leopold. Of Mr. Leopold, personally, it may be said that he was a man of strong and active sympathy; his temperament was warm and ardent, his feelings deep and intense. These and other characteristics unconsciously drew him an unusual number of devoted friends, upon whom, in all circumstances, he could rely and who, now that he has passed from earthly scenes, revere his memory. He was a close student of human nature and comprehended, with little effort, the motives and purposes of men. He was a lover of truth and sincerity; indeed, he is remembered as a manly man, of pleasing and dignified presence; a student of many subjects and an influential man in the life of Putnam county. Of sound character and unflagging energy, he stood as a conspicuous example of symmetrically-developed American manhood, and his position as one of the community's representative citizens was acknowledged by all. He was a native of a country which has given to the United States many noble minded citizens.

Bernard Leopold was born in Glandorf, in Hanover, Germany, in 1812, and was about seventeen years old when he came to America. He had intended to come with Professor Horstman and his party, who first settled Glandorf. To avoid being drafted for the army, the lad left before the others and was the first man to leave Glandorf for America. The ship was hung up for six weeks at Southampton, England, and, while there, another ship passed them which was bearing the first settlers of Glandorf. Mr. Leopold went to Cincinnati and there worked in a brickyard for a year.

In the spring of 1834, in company with Henry Siebeneck, Bernard Leopold started on foot and walked all the way to Glandorf. He entered eighty acres of land in Greensburg township, two miles west of Glandorf. He walked from Glandorf to the land office and then went back to Cincinnati, where he remained for two years. He purchased a four-horse team and engaged in hauling lumber. While in Cincinnati, he often passed a

little girl of eleven years, named Elizabeth Siemer. He often took her up to ride with him on her way to school. Years afterward, he again met her and she became his wife.

In 1836 Bernard Leopold came back to Glandorf and started a little store, the first one in Glandorf. He was compelled to drive to Piqua to get his merchandise and it took two weeks in those days to make the round trip. Mr. Leopold was a very useful man to his community, as he would trade for anything which the settlers had to offer. His wife conducted the store much of the time, while he did the trading and the outside work. From a very early date, at least as early as 1842, he began packing pork and bought hogs from a large territory as far away as Leipsic, developing quite a business. During the war he also salted cattle. About 1862 he quit packing pork and in 1863 closed his store.

In 1864 he prepared to build a hotel in Ottawa. He had the bricks made in his own brickyard in Glandorf. In 1865 he built the hotel on the south side of Main street, just west of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, and kept it until March, 1868, when he rented it to Allen Brothers. Mr. Leopold then purchased two hundred and forty acres of land north of Ottawa, of which forty acres is now inside the town limits. He made his home there the rest of his life and became the owner of a great deal of land at different times.

Bernard Leopold was married three times, his first and second wives each dying about a year after marriage, leaving no children. His third wife and mother of all of his children, was Elizabeth Scimer, who was the little girl who rode in his wagon years before in Cincinnati. She was born in Oldenburg, Germany, and came to America with her parents when ten years old. They settled at Fort Jennings in a little log house on the banks of the Auglaize river. Her father was a carpenter and cabinetmaker, but died a year after coming to this country. After her father died, it was decided to send the child to Cincinnati, where she could live with an elder sister and attend school. The little girl started on the way alone on foot with her belongings in a pillow case, which she hung over her shoulders, suspended by a stocking sewed to the upper corners. She had only thirty-seven cents in money. People asked her if she was running away from home, but, upon hearing her story, treated her kindly and helped her on her way.

After she had finished school she returned to Fort Jennings and lived with her mother until her marriage.

Bernard Leopold died on August 6, 1891, and his wife followed him on November 5, 1904. Both of them were strong, able characters, influential and well known and worthy of the high esteem in which they were held by

so many people. Bernard Leopold is gratefully remembered by many residents of Ottawa, Glandorf and Putnam county, whom he helped in an early day.

THEODORE J. KERNER.

A prominent citizen of Ottawa, Putnam county, Ohio, is Theodore J. Kerner, a member of the firm of Falke Brothers & Kerner, monument manufacturers and dealers. This firm has been in existence since November, 1904, although the business was started ten years previously by John Falke and C. Scherger & Sons, under the name of C. Scherger Sons & Company, and Theodore J. Kerner was employed as their representative. The business was first located at the corner of Walnut and Main streets, where the Dumont Hotel is now situated. In October, 1895, the firm bought the building where the business has since been conducted.

Theodore J. Kerner, the son of Matthias and Elizabeth (Henry) Kerner, was born in Greensburg township, Putnam county, Ohio, March 27, 1861. His father was born in Rhein-Beuren, Germany, January 2, 1810, and came to America when a young man and located at Massillon, Ohio, and died in 1881. In that city Matthias Kerner married Elizabeth Henry, who was born on December 3, 1821, in western Pennsylvania, of Dutch ancestry, and died in 1890. Matthias Kerner came to Putnam county, Ohio, in its early history, and was one of the earliest settlers to locate here. He made his permanent home in Greensburg township, buying a farm there, on which he lived until his death at the age of seventy-one. He increased his land holdings from time to time and later bought a farm in Union township and added another farm in Greensburg township. Nine children were born to Matthias Kerner and wife: Mary A., Joseph, Elizabeth, Phillip, Theresa, Bernardine, Catherine, Caroline and Theodore J.

Theodore J. Kerner was educated in the district schools of Greensburg township, and when he was about nineteen years of age, went to New Bavaria, Henry county, Ohio, to learn the blacksmith trade. He remained there three years, receiving twenty-five dollars for his first year's work; fifty dollars for the second year, and seventy-five dollars for his third year's services. For five years he worked at the blacksmith trade altogether, spending the last year or so in Defiance, Ohio. After recovering from an attack of typhoid fever, he went to his old employer at Holgate, who was then operating a general wood-working factory, and while working in this fac-

tory, Mr. Kerner received an injury to his left arm which crippled him for life.

This injury to Mr. Kerner proved to be a turning point in his life. Although he was several years past his majority he made up his mind to become a school teacher. His elementary education had been very limited, and he knew that he would have to go to school in order to prepare himself to teach. Accordingly he went to Ottawa and attended the public schools there for two years. He studied diligently, day and night, in order to prepare himself for some kind of professional career. He absorbed as much information in those two years as many people do in three times the same period, and had no difficulty in securing a license to teach. For the next ten years he taught school, beginning with a summer school just out of Ottawa, known as the New England school. He received the munificent sum of twenty-five dollars for his first summer's teaching. He had thrown his whole heart and soul into his profession, and gave such excellent satisfaction, that he was engaged for the winter term, and at the expiration of his first winter term he taught again the next summer. As a matter of fact, he taught winter and summer and really started the custom of giving summer and winter terms, with a longer vacation at the holiday time. Mr. Kerner made an enviable record as a teacher, remaining in the profession longer than he really wished to, because his patrons urged him to continue teaching. However, his health failed on account of the close confinement in the school room, and he was finally compelled to give up the profession. In 1895 he entered into the monument business, as has been previously mentioned, and he has given it all of his time and attention since.

Mr. Kerner was married on May 31, 1887, at Defiance, Ohio, to Magdalena T. Ardner, who was born in Shelby, Richland county, Ohio, October 28, 1863, and is a daughter of Wendle and Anna (Rimlinger) Ardner. Her father, who was born in 1823, was a native of Prussia, and was a weaver by trade in his native land, although after coming to America he followed farming. Anna Rimlinger was born in 1830. Her parents moved to Defiance county, where they lived the remainder of their lives.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerner are the parents of five children: Margaret Anna, born on April 2, 1888, who is the wife of Charles B. Myer, of this county, and has one son, Urban; Alphonsus Philip, born on October 15, 1889, a farmer of this county, who married Emma Myer, and has one son, Clarence; Mary Matilda, born on June 3, 1892, of Columbus Grove, the wife of Ralph Shindler, and the mother of one son, Willard, and one daughter, Estella; John Leo, born on October 28, 1893, single, and Pauline Elizabeth, born

April 28, 1895, also single. The last two are still living with their parents in Ottawa.

Mr. Kerner is an active Democrat, but has never been a candidate for public office. He is not a partisan in any sense of the word and often votes for the best man, irrespective of political affiliation. The family are loyal adherents of the Catholic church, and Mr. Kerner was active in promoting the Catholic Knights of Ohio, and has served as president of the local organization of Ottawa and has also filled the position of district state deputy, and organized Branch No. 60, at Miller City.

JOSEPH LEOPOLD.

Practical industry, wisely and vigorously applied, never fails of success. It carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulant to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are often obtained by simple means, and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The everyday life with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunity for acquiring experience of the best kind, and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self-improvement. One of Putnam county's most successful men, who has succeeded largely because of his industrious habits, is Joseph Leopold, of Ottawa, who is well known through his many activities here, having conducted the Leopold Hotel, of Ottawa, the Leopold elevator, and is still better known as the treasurer of Putnam county, having served in this capacity from 1893 to 1897. Mr. Leopold was twice elected to this office.

Joseph Leopold was born in Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio, September 21, 1845. He is a son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Siemer) Leopold, whose history is referred to elsewhere in this volume.

Joseph Leopold was educated in the common schools of Glandorf, and, later, attended college in Cincinnati for about two years. He resided on his father's farm until 1866, when he came to Ottawa with his father, and opened the Leopold Hotel, conducting this hostelry for two years. He then returned to the farm and engaged in buying and shipping live stock for several years. Later, he took charge of the Leopold elevator, buying and shipping grain until 1892. In that year he was elected on the Democratic ticket, as treasurer of Putnam county, taking office in September, 1893. He conducted this office upon strictly business principles, was pleasant and obliging to all, and

in recognition of his merits was re-elected in 1894, and held the office for a second term. Indeed, it was only by a very small margin that his constituents failed to put him in the office for a third term in 1898. This margin has been accounted for by one of those flukes in politics that was in nowise a reflection on Mr. Leopold and he left the office with the knowledge that he had performed his duties ably and well. After going out of office, Mr. Leopold resumed farming and has followed this occupation since that time. He has a farm in Palmer township, near Miller City, consisting of more than two hundred acres.

Joseph Leopold was married on May 4, 1871, to Elizabeth Recker, who was born on her father's farm about a mile south of Glandorf, Putnam county. She is a daughter of Herman Henry and Mary (Kottenbrock) Recker, and is a descendant of an honored pioneer family of Putnam county. A record of her parents is given in the sketch of Frank Recker, on another page of this volume. Suffice it to say here, that her father was a justice of the peace of Ottawa township for more than twenty-five years, and commissioner of the county for two terms, of three years each. He was a man of influence in his community, and widely known and respected by all.

Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Leopold, two of whom died in infancy, the others being Charles, Benjamin, Louis W., Mary, Bessie, and Herman Joseph, who died at the age of six. Charles married Catherine Roof, and lived on the Leopold farm until his wife died in August, 1899, leaving two children, Herman and Hildegard. Charles Leopold himself died in 1902, and his children have made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Leopold ever since. Benjamin T. Leopold, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Leopold, lives in Ottawa, and has held several official positions in the county. He married Mallie Brinkman, who died January 25, 1913. Louis W. Leopold is a resident of New York city, and is engaged in the advertising business; he married May Harker, and they have one son, Louis J. Mary, unmarried, lives at home with her parents. Bessie, also living at home, is a stenographer.

The Leopold family are all earnest and devout members of the Catholic church, and are actively interested in the work of this denomination. Joseph Leopold is one of those men who stand out in the civic and political life of a county as a leader of unquestioned merit. He has always been interested in public movements, and himself is a public-spirited citizen. Moreover, he is one of those men the value of whose work does not end when his active career ceases. The influence which he will have left behind will go on, not only to the succeeding generations of his own family, but to the succeeding generations living in Putnam county as well.

DAVID ALEXANDER LEINSETTER.

Many farmers have been called to positions of official responsibility by the people of their community. In fact, the farm is a most prolific training school for citizenship, and especially for the public service, probably because it first trains for that high degree of rugged honesty so necessary in the public service. One of the most successful farmers of Liberty township, and one of the leading citizens of that township, is David Alexander Leinsetter.

Mr. Leinsetter was born on December 13, 1867, about five miles northwest of Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio. He is a son of John A. and Elizabeth (Krebs) Leinsetter. The history of the Leinsetter family is contained in the sketch of John A. Leinsetter, to be found elsewhere in this volume.

Mr. Leinsetter grew to manhood on the home farm, and lived there until he was twenty-three years of age, at which time he married. His marriage took place on January 1, 1891, at which time he was married to Emma Schweitzer, a daughter of Frederick and Christian (Gottmeier) Schweitzer.

Frederick Schweitzer, the father of Mrs. Leinsetter, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1844, the son of John Michael and Rosina (Wolflinger) Schweitzer, both natives of Wuerttemberg, Germany, who came to the United States in their youth, and were married in this country. They lived and died in Fairfield county. Mr. Schweitzer lived on a farm until fifteen years old, when he learned the shoemaker's trade and followed that occupation in Lancaster. After he had learned this trade he returned to the farm and lived there until his marriage to Christina Gottmeier, who was born in Germany, and at the age of four years came to America with her parents. Philip Gottmeier and wife, who located in Lancaster, Ohio, where she lived until her marriage. In 1872, Mr. Schweitzer and wife came to Leipsic, and here he operated a shoe store, the first of its kind in Leipsic. It was located on the south side of Main street, just east of where the Ohio electric lines now run on the lot now occupied by Kuntz's grocery. He conducted this store for about four years, when it was sold to Mr. Maehlman. On account of his wife's health, Mr. Schweitzer moved to the country, where he farmed for about two years, after which he returned to Leipsic and resumed his trade, which he has followed since. Mr. Schweitzer was a member of the city council of Leipsic for a time. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom five died in childhood. Those living are as follow: David, of Toledo; Rebecca, the wife of Henry Pfister, of Leipsic; Emma, the wife of David Leinsetter; George, furniture dealer of Leipsic, and Albert, a resi-

dent of Chicago. Mr. Schweitzer and his wife have been life-long members of the Lutheran church.

After Mr. Leinsetter's marriage, he farmed for one year on the home place, after which he moved to Leipsic and engaged in the hardware business in the firm of Pfister, Leinsetter & Company. He remained with this firm about a year, after which he followed the well-drilling business for a year. Finally, he bought eighty acres three and one-half miles northwest of Leipsic.

When he moved to this farm, there were only a log cabin and a small barn on the place, which was badly run down and only partly cleared. He has improved it and made of it a good farm, erecting a substantial brick house and many other good farm buildings.

To Mr. and Mrs. Leinsetter two children have been born, Earl Winfred and Edith Elizabeth. Mr. Leinsetter is a genial, wide-awake, enterprising citizen. He has been honored by the people of Liberty township on several occasions. He served as trustee of the township for over four years, first by election, and then by appointment, and became assessor of the township in 1914, and, in all of these various official positions, he has discharged his duties in a manner eminently satisfactory to the people of Liberty township.

Mr. and Mrs. Leinsetter are active and devoted members of the Lutheran church, to which they give liberally of their time and means. They are popular socially in their home township and have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

GERHARD B. MEYER.

Ohio has been especially honored by the characters and careers of her farmers. In every section have been found men born to leadership in this vocation, men who have dominated because of their superior intelligence, natural endowment and force of character. It is always profitable to study such lives, weigh their motives and hold up their achievements as incentives to greater activities and high excellence on the part of others. These reflections are suggested by the career of Gerhard B. Meyer, who during his life, forged his way to the front ranks of the farmers of Putnam county. By his inherent force of character, his buoyant business ability, he was able to direct and control the actions of his neighbors and fellow citizens. He was a leader in his vocation for more than a generation and few men in Putnam county achieved a more honorable position or occupied a more conspicuous place as a farmer than the late Gerhard B. Meyer. His success was

obtained by normal methods and means, determined application of physical and mental resources along correctly defined lines.

The late Gerhard B. Meyer was born in Hanover, Germany, on August 26, 1833, the son of Theodore and Anna (Mersman) Meyer. Gerhard B. Meyer came with his parents, in 1834, to Glandorf, Putnam county, and spent almost his entire life there. His father located on a farm in section 33, southwest of Ottawa, which he purchased from Professor Horstman. At that time it was all a new country and Indians were still in the vicinity.

On May 1, 1853, Mr. Meyer was married to Anna M. Moening, a sister of Henry Moening, whose life history is found elsewhere in this volume, and which gives the parental history of Mrs. Meyer. She was born in Ottawa township, southwest of Glandorf on April 29, 1835, and was the seventh child baptized in Glandorf. Theodore Meyer, Mr. Meyer's father, was connected with the organization of the church at Glandorf, where Mrs. Gerhard B. Meyer was baptized.

After his marriage, Mr. Meyer remained on the farm. He was born in Hanover, Germany, and after his father's death, purchased the interest of the other heirs in the estate. Gerhard B. Meyer owned, altogether, at one time, three hundred and eighty acres of splendid farming lands in Putnam county. He also conducted a threshing machine for many years and was successful in this business.

To Gerhard B. and Anna M. (Moening) Meyer, eleven children were born, of whom eight grew to maturity, Henry, who lives about two and one-half miles southwest of Leipsic; Theodore, who lives at Toledo; Joseph, who lives about one and one-half miles southwest of Leipsic; Herman, who lives about two miles southwest of Ottawa; Mary, who is the wife of Henry Kreinbrink, a farmer of the west edge of West Leipsic; Frank, who farms the old home place southwest of Ottawa; Kate, deceased, who was the wife of Frank Karhoff; and Lizzie, the wife of Joseph Kleman, who lives in the western part of Liberty township.

Gerhard B. Meyer died on September 17, 1900, and his wife died on March 6, 1912. With the passing of these venerable citizens, Putnam county lost two of its pioneer settlers and two of its most highly respected citizens. Gerhard B. Meyer was a modest, unassuming man, but he was a man of a deeply religious nature who believed in and practiced the fundamental principles of Christianity. He was one of those men of whom it may be truly said that he performed a noble work and that there must be given to him by the eternal order of things the reward laid up that is in store for those who do their duty well on this earth.

GEORGE JACOB SCHRAM.

A review of the life of the honored and lamented George Jacob Schram must, of necessity, be brief and general in its character. To enter fully into the interesting details of his career, touching the struggles of his early manhood and successes of later days, would far transcend the limits of this article. He filled a large place in the ranks of enterprising and public men of his day and generation, and the luster of his deeds and the memories which attach to his name and character, form no inconsiderable chapter in the history of the community where he did his work and achieved his success. It is sufficient, however, to entitle him to an honorable position among the brave and energetic self-made men of Ohio, who, by enterprise and unswerving integrity, forged to the front and won for the grand old Buckeye commonwealth a place second to none in the bright constellation comprising the union. That he did his part nobly cannot be gainsaid, and, though deceased, he yet speaketh in the works which he accomplished and in the many kind deeds and wholesome influence, which, not only his friends, but the community as well, prize as a great heritage.

George Jacob Schram was born in Fort Jennings on February 5, 1869, and was the son of John and Eva Schram, both of whom were natives of Germany, and who were early settlers in Putnam county, Ohio, where they were farmers. Mrs. Eva Schram passed away early in life. The father, however, is still living.

The late George Jacob Schram received a common-school education, attending school during the winter months and assisting his father on the farm during the summer. In his youth, he was known as a young man of industrious habits and a clean mind and a wholesome heart. He grew to manhood as a young man of honorable and upright habits and was always highly respected.

The late George Jacob Schram was married on April 2, 1892, to Nellie W. Huysman, who was born on December 4, 1868, and who was the daughter of Aaron and Gretchen (Osenga) Huysman, the former of whom is a native of Holland, born on December 15, 1838, and the son of Henry Peter and Nelly Huysman. To this very happy union three children were born, all of whom are now living: Aaron was born in May, 1893; he lives at home and operates the home farm for his mother. Margaret was born on April 26, 1895, and is now attending school; William was born on August 12, 1897, and he, likewise, is at home.

After a long and useful life, but a life all too brief, by his many worthy

deeds and loving kindness, George Jacob Schram passed away September 22, 1908. He was a man who will long be remembered in Monterey township as one of its leading citizens and farmers. Although modest and unassuming in manner, he was possessed of a deeply religious nature, and throughout his life was devoted to the work of the Lutheran church, in which he, as well as the members of the family who survive, have always been earnest and active supporters. Mr. Schram did not toil in vain; his widow and children were left well provided for. Mrs. Schram owns ninety-five acres of splendid land in Monterey township. The farm has been improved from time to time and now has modern buildings, and imposing house and a commodious barn. Much of this work was performed by the departed husband and father, and his influence did not cease with his death, but will go on to bless the loving widow and the children, who will strive the harder to follow the upright example which he left.

BARNEY BRUSKOTTER.

In the early days, the Middle West was often a tempting field for energetic, ambitious and strong-minded men. Ohio was filled with them during the time she was struggling for a respectable position in the sisterhood of states. During the twenty-five or more years subsequent to the admission of Ohio to the Union, there was a fascination in the broad fields of promise, which this new region presented. The country attracted many men and induced them to brave the discomforts of early life, for the pleasure and gratification of building their own fortunes in their own way. Many European countries furnished pioneer citizens to the state of Ohio, but no country furnished a better class of citizens than Germany. A son of one of these early German settlers is Barney Bruskotter, the subject of this sketch. His father was among the pioneers of Putnam county, and since the coming of Barney Bruskotter, Sr., the family has been an important factor in the life of Putnam county.

Barney Bruskotter, Jr., was born in Greensburg township on May 26, 1864. He is the son of Barney and Christine (Edelbrock) Bruskotter. Barney Bruskotter, Sr., was born in Germany, as was also his wife. He came to the United States and to Putnam county and his wife came with her parents when she was a small child. Barney Bruskotter, Sr., was married in Putnam county. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, six of whom are still living: Henry lives at Shepard, Michigan, on a farm;

William died about 1909; Frank lives at Lima, Ohio; Barney, Jr., is the subject of this sketch; Katherine is the wife of Al Luersman; they live at Landeck, Allen county, Ohio; Thresa is the wife of Henry Weaging; they live in Jennings township; Anna is the wife of John Bearhide; they live in Cloverdale.

Barney Bruskotter, Sr., was a farmer. He owned a farm in Greensburg township and also owned land in Jennings township. He died in 1874; his wife survived until February 4, 1900.

Barney Bruskotter, Jr., received his early education in the common schools of Putnam county. He lived on the farm and performed the usual labor which falls to the lot of the country boy, and remained with his parents until his marriage.

Mr. Bruskotter, Jr., was married on August 24, 1893, to Miss Katherine Bearhide, a daughter of Henry and Anna (Leopold) Bearhide, both natives of Germany, the former came to this country alone when a young man. His wife came with her parents. They were married in Putnam county and were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living: Mary died at the age of forty-two; Elizabeth is the wife of William Horstmann, and they live at Montana, Putnam county; Wilemine is the wife of William Bruskotter, who died in 1905; his widow lives at Ft. Jennings; Katherine is the wife of Barney Bruskotter, Jr., the subject of this sketch; she was born December 20, 1864. Henry lives in Jennings townships; John lives at Cloverdale; Frank lives in Jennings township, and Anna is the wife of Benjamin Unverferth; they live at Ottawa. Mrs. Anna Bearhide was married first to Fred Kramer, and by this marriage was the mother of one son, Fred Kramer, who died in August, 1909. After the death Mr. Kramer, Mrs. Kramer married Mr. Bearhide. Henry Bearhide, who was a farmer, died on April 8, 1905; his wife survived until May 5, 1915.

To Mr. and Mrs. Barney Bruskotter, Jr., five children have been born, all of whom are living: Elenore was born on April 9, 1894; she lives at home. Veronice was born on January 10, 1896; she is a teacher and also lives at home; Leander was born on September 10, 1897, and lives at home; Helen was born on October 29, 1902, and is at present attending school; Florence was born on November 20, 1904, and is attending school.

Barney Bruskotter owns ninety acres of land in section 9, in Jennings township. He has made extensive improvements and additions on this farm, including a barn and house. Mr. Bruskotter raises a high grade of live stock and has been very successful as a farmer in Putnam county.

The family are members of the Catholic church at Ft. Jennings. Politic-

ally, Mr. Bruskotter is a staunch Democrat. He is now serving his fourth year as trustee of Jennings township, and is president of the township board, in which position he is serving his second year. Barney Bruskotter is a man well respected in his community; a man who is liberal in support of public enterprises, who is rearing an industrious family, and whose name is a credit to the community where he resides.

WILLIAM V. TRASK.

The gentleman whose name appears at the head of this review has proved himself worthy of representation in a work of this nature by reason of his unfaltering duty to his fellow citizens and by constantly advocating those things which make for the betterment of mankind. He is looked up to by his friends and acquaintances and all who know him on account of his firm convictions and because he earned a goodly share of this world's goods, by having led a life of thrift and industry. He has always been ready to lend a helping hand to the advancement of good policy and his life has been one of unceasing activity. Having pursued his career and achieved success by honorable means he is regarded as one of Putnam county's leading and substantial citizens.

William Trask was born in Pleasant township on February 10, 1866, and is the son of John and Rachel (Kidd) Trask. The father was born on March 22, 1835, in Trumbull county, Ohio, and is the son of Isaac and Margaret (Jack) Trask, who came to Putnam county in 1837 and settled in Ottawa township near the town of Ottawa. John Trask was twice married, the first time to Elizabeth Casebolt and by this union two children were born, Isaac N. on June 21, 1857, who resides in the state of Nebraska, and Susan J., July 9, 1858, died on January 7, 1859. Soon after his first marriage, John Trask removed to a fifty-acre farm in Pleasant township, this county, to which he added one hundred and seventy-four acres at a later date and the total acreage of two hundred and twenty-four acres he retained and farmed until the time of his death. His second marriage occurred on August 12, 1862, to Rachel Kidd, daughter of Ezra and Julia A. (Hooper) Kidd and was born on January 7, 1843. Her parents settled in Putnam county in 1837 and to their union were born six children, the names and birth date as follow: Kemerer, on March 14, 1861, died on September 24, 1870; James W., May 25, 1863, who resides in Vinita, Oklahoma; William, the subject

of this sketch; Guy, May 23, 1874, who resides in Detroit, Michigan; Zoe, April 15, 1876, died on August 9, 1877, and Harry, April 27, 1879, who is a practicing physician in Detroit, Michigan. On September 12, 1893, the father of these children died on the homestead farm. His wife's father, Ezra Kidd, was born on May 5, 1817, in Washington county, Ohio, which place he left when a very young man, accompanied by his father and settled near the town of Rockport, Ohio. He left this homestead at a later date and came to Columbus Grove, Ohio, and farmed for several years in Pleasant township. At a later date he sold out the Pleasant township farm and rented property in Sugar Creek township, near the town of Vaughnsville, where he remained until September 12, 1893, which was the year of his death. His wife was a native of Franklin county, Ohio, near the city of Columbus, where she was born on May 13, 1821, and after living a peaceful and most useful life, she died on August 16, 1886. To their union were born twelve children, Rachel, the subject's mother; Mary Jane (Postlewaite), who died in 1912; Washington, who died in infancy; Rhoda (Thompson); Philip; William; James, deceased; John; Sarah (Barnam); Vance; Cassius, and an unnamed infant. The father of these children was a firm believer in the principles of the Republican party while the family belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church.

It should not be omitted in this review that "Grandpa" James Jack served his country in the War of 1812 and that John Trask had four brothers who served in the Civil War. In this war Nathaniel was killed at the battle of Chickamauga; James lost his left arm; Robert was mustered into the service, but never left the city of Columbus, Ohio, for action, and William was killed at the battle of Stone's River.

William Trask spent the days of his youth on his father's farm, received his education in the township schools, and has continued to live on the place ever since. On June 24, 1884, he was married to Ella Buck, daughter of Henry and Susan (Wagner) Buck, who was born in Pleasant township. Her father was also born in Pleasant township on July 21, 1839, and was the son of Benjamin Denton and Almeda (Conant) Buck. Benjamin D. Buck was a native of Pennsylvania and the home place was near the Susquehanna river. He was born on July 7, 1802, and came to Medina county, Ohio, when a boy, where he grew to manhood and was married. In 1835 he came to Putnam county and entered three hundred and twenty acres of land, where he spent the remainder of his life. He died on September 16, 1865, at the age of sixty-three years. Subject's wife's mother, Susan (Wagner) Buck, was a native of Athens county, Ohio, and left there at the

age of eight years for Putnam county, and was accompanied by her parents. Here she grew to womanhood and died on January 1, 1879, in the thirty-seventh year of her age. Henry Buck was twice married, the first time, in the year 1863, to Susan Wagner who was born on April 13, 1841. To their union were born four children, Ella (Trask), of Columbus Grove, Ohio; Laura (Webster), of San Gabriel, California; Henry E., of Pleasant township, this county, and Albert, who is residing in the state of Texas. The second marriage occurred in 1881, when he took Mary Jane Leonard to be his wife and to which union there were no children. She died on March 4, 1911. Henry Buck spent all of his boyhood days on his present farm, consisting of sixty-six acres, in Pleasant township, and during his time has creditably held the office of township trustee for twelve years. He was also justice of the peace for about ten years; has always been a Republican in politics and religiously is not identified with any particular denomination, but formerly was a member of the United Brethren church. He was one of seven children, William, Seth, Benjamin, Lovina, Orson, Henry and Lewis Denton, who lives in the state of Kansas. The first five are deceased.

Soon after his marriage, William Trask removed from the old farm, which consisted of one hundred and four acres, to a forty-acre farm, which is situated across the public highway from the old place. On this place he made all the improvements necessary to put the farm in first-class condition and is very successful in raising a general line of crops. To him and his wife have been born eight children, Ethel, who married Charles Gettman, and has two children, Robert and Leora; Ralph, who died at the age of ten years; Pratt, who married Grace Lee, and lives in Columbus Grove, Ohio, where he conducts a barber shop. They have one child, Mildred; Guy, of Beliefontaine, Ohio; Lena; Clifford; Irene and Virgil, all of whom reside under the parental roof.

William Trask is a man widely known throughout Putnam county and is particularly noted for his sterling character, strict attention to his own affairs and for the consistent support that he gives to all meritorious enterprises that are intended for the welfare and advancement of the community at large. He has creditably served as township trustee for one year of a two year's term, takes an active and aggressive interest in supporting the principles of the Democratic party and religiously, is not identified with any particular denomination. Personally, he is a man worthy of the respect of every one and on account of his kindly disposition, genial manners, and affability, it is a pleasure to have him numbered among one's friends and acquaintances.

LOUIS VON LEHMEN.

Among the men who have devoted their lives to the pursuit of agriculture, and who by unceasing energy and well-directed efforts have attained a good share of this world's goods, is the man whose name appears as the caption for his review. Descended from good old German ancestry and having had instilled into him the habits of frugality, thrift and industry, it is not surprising that Louis Von Lehmen should have won for himself the merited praise and high esteem of his fellow man and achieved a degree of success that entitles him to special recognition in a work containing the annals of Putnam county.

Louis Von Lehmen was born in Jennings township, Putnam county, Ohio, on May 14, 1846 and is the son of Francis and Elizabeth (Helmkamp) Von Lehmen. The father was a native of Germany and came to this country when quite a young man and settled in Putnam county during the year 1835. The mother was also a native of Germany and came to America with her parents when she was a very young girl and they settled in this county in an early day. Francis Von Lehmen and wife were married at a later date and to them were born three children, Francis, deceased; Louis, the subject of this review, and Anna, who was married to Henry Baumgarte, now deceased, and she is living at present in Delphos, Ohio. The mother survived the father of these children and married a second time, her second husband being Henry Suever and to their union were born two children, William, deceased, and August. Mr. and Mrs. William Suever continued to reside in Jennings township until the time of their deaths. He died in the year 1900, having survived his wife five years.

Louis Von Lehmen received his early schooling in the township schools and remained with his parents until the time of his marriage, November 14, 1872, when Mary E. Gerker became his wife. She was a native of Putnam county and had lived there since her birth in 1849. To their union were born five children, all of whom are living, whose names are given in the order of their birth, Henry C. on July 8, 1874, who is engaged in the butcher business, in Ft. Jennings, this county; Amelia, November 11, 1876; William J., October 28, 1879; Francis G., June 13, 1883; Edward J., May 19, 1889. All of these children make their homes with the parents at this time.

Louis Von Lehmen inherited from his parents an eighty-acre tract of fairly good farming land, to which he has added one hundred and five acres. A number of new and substantial farm buildings have been constructed, including the comfortable and well-built home place and a fine new barn

building. These improvements have been made at considerable sacrifice and expense, but have added so materially to the value of the farm that the end justified the means and has contributed largely to the comfort and satisfaction of the entire family. On this place the business of general farming is done and it is said that the production of grain and other products is well up with the average farm in this locality.

Mr. Von Lehmden is a persistent advocate of the principles of Democracy, takes quite an active interest in public affairs, and served the community for three terms as township trustee, which office he filled with credit to himself and wholly satisfactory to everyone concerned and has also been a member of the board of school directors for many years. Mr. Von Lehmden is not a member of any social or fraternal organization, but, religiously, the entire family are regular attendants and devout members of the Catholic church in Ft. Jennings. Personally, Mr. Von Lehmden enjoys the confidence and high regard of every one in his community and possesses attributes and characteristics that fully entitle him to the respect and consideration of his fellow men.

HERMAN FRANK MEYER.

Agriculture has been an honored vocation from the earliest ages, and as a usual thing men of honorable and humane impulses, as well as those of energy and thrift, have been patrons of husbandry. The free, outdoor life of the farm has a decided tendency to foster and develop that independence of mind and self-reliance which characterizes true manhood. No truer blessing can befall a boy than to be reared in close touch with nature in the healthful, life-inspiring labor of the fields. It has always been the fruitful soil from which have sprung the moral bone and sinew of the country, and the majority of our nation's greatest warriors, renowned statesmen and distinguished men of letters were born on the farm, and were indebted largely to its early influence for the distinction which they have attained.

Herman Frank Meyer, a prosperous and enterprising farmer of Ottawa township, Putnam county, Ohio, was born two miles southwest of Ottawa, on October 3, 1873. He is a son of Gerhard B. and Anna M. (Moening) Meyer. Herman Frank Meyer has lived all his life on the farm where he now resides, and where he was born.

Mr. Meyer was married on August 31, 1898, to Paulina Karhoff, who was born northwest of Glandorf, in this county. She is a daughter of

Frank H. and Agnes (Niese) Karhoff. Frank Karhoff was born on June 26, 1850, on the farm where he now lives, one mile northwest of Glandorf. He is a son of Herman Henry and Adeline (Grote) Karhoff, the former a native of Holland, and the latter a native of Germany. Herman Henry Karhoff came to America at the age of twenty-three years. His future wife came to this country on the same ship. Eventually, he came to Putnam county, Ohio, and purchased two hundred and eighteen acres of land near Glandorf. Mrs. Meyer's father was only ten years of age when her grandfather died. The grandmother remained on this farm, reared her children, and spent her old age there with her son, her death occurring on August 9, 1895, at the age of eighty-seven years. Mrs. Meyer's father was reared on the farm near Glandorf, and was married, August 3, 1870, to Agnes Niese, who was born north of her present home, and who is the daughter of Barney and Catherine (Lafkon) Niese, the former a native of Prussia, and the latter of Hanover, Germany. Mrs. Meyer's father has been an extensive breeder of thoroughbred Durham cattle, but gave up this branch of farming some years ago. Mrs. Meyer is one of ten children born to her parents, Frank B. first married Katie Meyer. She died, leaving an infant son, Harry, and he afterward married Lucy Hulsman, to which union five children were born, Laura, Edwin, Philomina, Alma and Edna. Frank lives at the east edge of Greensburg township, north of the Ottawa & Kalida pike; Henry Karhoff married Lucy Ellerbrock, and lives north of Kalida on the Napoleon road. They have seven children, Delia, Lawrence, Amos, Francis, Cornelius, Emma and Raymond; Amelia is the wife of Mathias Robke, and lives in Cloverdale. They have two sons, Frank and Albert; Paulina is the wife of H. F. Meyer, and lives southwest of Ottawa, and they have six children, Albert, Lawrence, Felix, Luella, Mary and Agnes; Philomina is the wife of Ben Brinkman, and lives one and one-half miles from Kalida on the Columbus Grove pike, and they have three children, Edwin, Hilda and Norma; John married Lena Hulsman and lives in the northwest part of Pleasant township, and they are the parents of three children, Ida, Urban and Leo; Emma is the wife of Edwin Brinkman, and they live in the southwest part of Liberty township. They have two children, Alice and Mary; Albert married Agnes Stechschulte and lives near the northwest corner of Ottawa township; Lewis and Barney are unmarried and living at home. Albert and Lewis are twins, born on February 20, 1891.

Herman Frank Meyer now owns one hundred and twenty-nine acres of land, on which he carries on a diversified system of farming and has met with a very commendable degree of success in his efforts.

Mr. Meyer and family are devout members of the Catholic church at Glandorf. In fact, both the Meyer and Karhoff families are and have been for many generations members of this church, and are actively interested in its welfare, contributing generously to its support. Mr. Meyer lives on the old home farm, where he has a splendid brick residence, good barns, well-kept fences and fields, and his farm presents a very attractive appearance. He is an enterprising and progressive farmer, and a man well entitled to recognition in a volume of this character.

MATHIAS BRINKMAN.

Although Mathias Brinkman may not have been one of the pioneer settlers of Putnam county, yet, he has been a life-long resident in this community and by his indomitable courage, persistent endeavor and successful career, has stamped his impress on those with whom he has come in contact and is worthy of the praise and admiration of his fellow men for his high personal character and attainment of a due measure of success by his own efforts. The qualities which have made Mr. Brinkman one of the prominent and successful agriculturists of this county have been those of well-directed energy, strong determination and honorable methods.

Mathias Brinkman was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 20, 1852, and is the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Winkelman) Brinkman, both of whom were born in Germany and came to this country with their respective parents at different times and when they were very young. Frank Brinkman settled in Cincinnati when he came to America and was employed there at various kinds of labor. This was in the year 1847, and after a few years in that city, he was married to Elizabeth Winkelman. Leaving Cincinnati, in the year 1856, he decided to move to Delphos, Ohio, where he remained a short time and during October of the following year he purchased eighty acres of land in Jennings township, Putnam county, on which land he made his home for the remainder of his life, his death occurring, September 19, 1891. Frank and Elizabeth (Winkelman) Brinkman were born seven children, Mathias, the subject of this review; Elizabeth, the wife of John Helmick who lives in Van Wert county; Gerhart, who resides in Jennings township, and who died on June 20, 1915; Anna, who married Henry Krietemeyer, lived in Monterey township, this county, and who is now deceased since April 10, 1898; Frank, who lives on the homestead place in Jennings town-

ship, and two children that died in infancy. The mother of these children lived until July 19, 1903, and both the father and mother were devout members of the Catholic church in Ottoville.

Mathias Brinkman received his early education in the neighboring schools of Jennings township and remained under the parental roof until about the time of his marriage to Anna Wolke on February 14, 1882, born on September 24, 1862. She was a daughter of Henry and Angeline (Lampe) Wolke who were both natives of Germany and are now deceased, Henry since March 16, 1915, and Angeline since April 27, 1902. Soon after his marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brinkman went to live on a farm consisting of eighty acres which he owned and which is located in section 18, about one mile northeast of Ottoville. On this place Mr. Brinkman has made a great many improvements, consisting of a new barn and modern house, besides the building necessary for the care of farm machinery, etc. He devotes all of his time to general farming and stock raising and by economical management has been able to produce grain and stock at a fair margin of profit to himself. To their union were born eleven children, of whom seven are living, Mary, on November 22, 1882; Elizabeth, July 2, 1884, who was married to Edward Schwertner on June 25, 1913, who lives in Cleveland, Ohio; Emma, born January 16, 1886, who married Louis Ricker on August 30, 1911, and who lives in Van Wert county, Ohio; Gerhard, born on September 26, 1887; Eleanora, born on March 25, 1894; Hildegard, born on April 30, 1897, and Sylvester, born on December 25, 1900; Mary and four children who died in infancy. The last four named making their residence with the father and they all mourn the loss of a devoted, loyal and true wife and mother who passed from this earth on May 13, 1904, and lies at rest in the cemetery in Ottoville where she was buried according to the rites of the Catholic church of which the family are members.

Mr. Brinkman is deeply interested in the progressive policies of the Democratic party and has always been identified with that party, though he does not take an active interest in politics. He is a man that stands for all that is right and is ever willing to lend his assistance to all worthy projects for the benefit of his fellow men. Personally, Mathias Brinkman is a man of kindly and genial temperament and has many friends throughout this section of the county. He is known to be particularly successful in raising graded stock on his farm, his business dealings in this line affording him an opportunity for a large acquaintance. He enjoys the respect and esteem of all those who know him and is regarded by all as one of the substantial and worthy citizens of this community.

ROBERT MONROE KRATZ.

The purpose of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest opinion of himself or his accomplishments, but rather to leave upon the record for posterity the verdict of his day and generation as to his character and the consensus of opinion as to his worth among his fellow citizens. In touching the life history of Robert Monroe Kratz, extravagant praise is avoided. There is sufficient in Mr. Kratz's life,—true, useful and honorable—that his example may be emulated by the young men of this generation. His life has been characterized by perseverance and energy, charity and well-defined purpose, and he is eminently entitled to representation in any historical work of the county in which he lives.

Robert Monroe Kratz was born on October 10, 1858, at Mt. Union, Stark county, Ohio, the son of John and Caroline (Guge) Kratz. John Kratz was born on October 18, 1830, in Stuttgart, Germany, the son of Thomas Kratz and Barbarabidder Kratz. John Kratz was married in Germany, shortly after which he came to America. He was preceded, however, by two younger brothers, fourteen and sixteen years of age, one of whom died at Buffalo, New York, shortly after arriving in America. John Kratz came to America in October, 1856. He was a printer by trade, but never followed this vocation after coming to this country. He came direct to Stark county, where he rented a farm and, a little later, moved to Columbiana county, where he continued farming. About the close of the Civil War, he removed to Carroll county and purchased a farm near Malvern, Ohio. He lived on this farm until his death, on November 26, 1886. Jacob Kratz, a younger brother, came to America with John and Caroline Kratz, who afterward served four years in the Civil War. He was captured and held nine months in Andersonville prison and died recently at his home in Cleveland, Ohio. Just prior to coming to America, John Kratz married Caroline Guge, the daughter of Christopher and Catherine Guge. To this union four children were born, Catherine, who married Lewis Reed, of Bayard, Ohio, and has three children, Robert M., the subject of this sketch; John, who married Vinta Roach and lives at Youngstown, and they have one child, and Jacob, who married Hannah Duper. They have six children and live at home on the old homestead near Malvern, Carroll county.

Receiving his early education in Columbiana and Carroll counties, Robert Monroe Kratz, in addition to the common schools, attended high school and a special normal school at Malvern, Ohio. He remained on the farm until he was twenty years old, his father having died when he was seventeen.

He then learned the building trade and spent a year in South Bend, Indiana, when he returned to Ohio, where he followed his trade for a couple of years. Subsequently, he spent two years in Iowa and then returned to Putnam county, where he was married, after which he returned again to Carroll county and there he remained two years. Finally, he returned to Putnam county again and bought a farm two and one-half miles east of Leipsic, where he has remained until the present time.

At the age of twenty-five, Mr. Kratz was married to Alice Weaver on November 22, 1882. Mrs. Kratz is the daughter of Nicholas and Sarah (Williams) Weaver, who lived on the farm now occupied by Mr. Kratz. Nicholas Weaver was born in New Harrisburg, Carroll county, Ohio, and is the son of David Weaver and wife, who came from Pennsylvania to Carroll county, Ohio, in an early day. Nicholas Weaver was one of twelve children, five sons and seven daughters. Three of the sons, Solomon, David and Jonathan, became famous and were all well known ministers; Solomon was the founder of a college in Kansas and was a competent official in the United Brethren church, and David also distinguished himself as a minister in the same church; Jonathan was a bishop for forty years and at the beginning of his career, was president of Otterbein University of Ohio, and the author of many religious works. As bishop in his church, he had supervision of practically the entire country at different times.

Mrs. Kratz, who was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on September 20, 1865, has one brother, Rev. E. S. Weaver, at present pastor of Grace Methodist Episcopal church at Norwood, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio. Her mother was also born in Tuscarawas county. Mrs. Weaver's parents were of Welsh descent.

To Robert M. and Alice (Weaver) Kratz five children have been born, Edwin died in infancy; Ada, the wife of Simon Hummon, both of whom are engaged in educational work. They reside at Leipsic and have two children, Maxine and Everett; Maude, who is the wife of William Davenport, lives at Park River, North Dakota, where Mr. Davenport is superintendent of schools. They have two children, Robert and Virginia; Everett, who is still single and is at present superintendent of schools at Dupont, Ohio, and Madge, who is unmarried and at home.

Mr. Kratz has followed the builder's trade for twenty-two years. He is also a successful farmer and is well known as such.

While a Democrat and interested generally in political affairs, Mr. Kratz has been too busy with personal and private matters to devote much attention to political questions. Fraternally, he is a member of Leipsic

Lodge No. 548, Free and Accepted Masons, and was master of this lodge for three years. Mrs. Kratz is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Robert M. Kratz is not only a successful man but he is what might be called a good man in every sense of the word and a man highly esteemed in the locality where he lives.

SQUIRE J. BAKER.

A prominent and distinguished citizen of Bellmore, Putnam county, Ohio, is Squire J. Baker, who has been a resident of this county since the spring of 1872. He has an unusual record as a soldier of the Civil War, during which struggle he was captured by the Confederates and held a prisoner for one hundred and ten days. Since the latter part of the seventies he has been engaged in barbering in Bellmore, and for more than forty years has followed his trade in that place. Mr. Baker has been a curio and relic hunter for more than half a century, and now has one of the finest collections of relics in the state of Ohio. He has taken a very prominent part in the civic life of his community, and has held various official positions in a manner which indicates that he is a man of more than ordinary ability. He is one of the most progressive and enterprising citizens of his community, and has never failed to give his hearty support to all worthy measures which were calculated to improve the community in any way.

Squire J. Baker, the son of John and Elma (Shinn) Baker, was born in Sydney, Ohio, on October 19, 1842. His father was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, on September 9, 1815, and died on September 13, 1896. John Baker was a son of John C. Baker, a native of Germany, who came to America at an early age and located in Virginia, where he married Mary Bush, a native of Virginia. John C. Baker and wife were the parents of several children, Henry, Christopher, John, Squire, Jacob, Elizabeth, Polly and Lydia Ann.

John Baker came to Ohio and located in Shelby county with his parents when he was a small boy, his father locating on government land. In that county John Baker attended the public schools and on October 4, 1837, was married to Elma Shinn, of Warren county, Ohio. After his marriage he entered a tract of government land, which he farmed until three or four years before his death, September 13, 1896. In addition to farming, John Baker was a local minister in the Methodist Episcopal church. He enlisted in the Ninety-ninth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but was rejected

on account of his physical condition. Elma Shinn, the mother of Squire J. Baker, was born in Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, on July 3, 1816, and died on June 23, 1898. John Baker and wife were the parents of eleven children, Louis, who died at the age of two; Mary E., who died at the age of thirty, of Bellmore; Martha Ann, the wife of a Mr. Leonard, of Spencer, Indiana; Diantha, who died at the age of thirty; Mrs. Margaret Jane Stang; Anna, of Shelby county, Ohio; Mrs. Manorah Isabel Stutz, of Spencer, Indiana; Delilah, who died at the age of fifteen; William Webster, of Kansas City, Missouri; Harvey Newton, of Toledo, Ohio, and Sherman Grant, of Dayton, Ohio.

Squire J. Baker was educated in the rude subscription schools of his home county, which were current in his day, although he only received about one year of schooling altogether, his father splitting rails in order to secure money to pay for this one year's education. However, his mother was a well-educated woman, and he gained much of his education at her knee. He spent his boyhood on the old home place and, at the age of eighteen enlisted in Company K, Twentieth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, with Generals Grant and Sherman. His regiment was attached to the Second Brigade, Third Division Seventeenth Army Corps of the Army of the Tennessee, and among other battles he participated in the following: Hankinson's Ferry, Raymond, Mississippi, Champion's Hill, Vicksburg, Jackson, Baker's Creek, Kenesaw Mountain, Nickajack Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Savannah, Pocotaligo, Orangeburg, Columbia, Cheraw, Bentonville and Goldsborough. He was captured at Brandon, Mississippi, and held prisoner by the Confederates for one hundred and ten days before he was finally exchanged, when he rejoined his regiment and served until the close of the war, and was finally mustered out of service at Washington, D. C., May 30, 1865.

After the close of the war, Mr. Baker returned to his home in Sydney, Ohio, and helped his father on the old homestead. In the spring of 1867 he was married and began farming near Sydney, living on a farm there until April 2, 1872, on which date he moved to Bellmore, Putnam county, Ohio, where he worked in the timber for five years, after which he opened a barber shop in Bellmore and has been in this business since that time.

The interesting career of Mr. Baker would not be complete without mention were made of his fine collection of relics and curios. It is impossible in this brief sketch to give a complete list of the interesting articles which Mr. Baker has collected, but enough will be mentioned to show the wide variety of his collection. He has a tool made of stone, shaped something

like a whetstone, which the Indians used as a hide dresser, which was excavated from the Indian mounds on the Ohio river above Cincinnati. He has a fine specimen of an Indian granite ax, and a half dozen other stone hammers and axes which he has picked up at various places. Two other interesting relics are shuttles which were used by the Indians in weaving fishing and trapping nets. These shuttles are flat stones with two holes in them, through which the deer thongs were passed. He also has a numerous and varied collection of arrow-heads of all sizes, many of them significant of certain tribes. He has a very rare and valuable scalping-hawk, commonly known as a tomahawk, which is fashioned like a hatchet, except that the hammer end of the hatchet is pointed in shape. This interesting relic was exhumed near Upper Sandusky, near the point where Colonel Crawford was burned at the stake by the Indians, and probably this weapon was used in severing the scalp from some unfortunate victim. An Indian pestle, fashioned from stone, similar to that now used by a druggist, is another interesting curio. It is about six inches tall and from two and one-half to three inches in diameter. This tool was used by the Indians in grinding corn in a hollow stone or the stump of a tree. A stone pipe which was once in possession of some Wyandot Indian, is in the collection of Mr. Baker, the pipe having been found near the remains of an Indian who had been buried in a sitting posture. A unique powder-horn obtained from a rebel soldier by Mr. Baker himself, is artfully carved into a perfect horn, and the rebel soldier told Mr. Baker that it was the handiwork of his own grandfather. Mr. Baker has a splendid collection of Civil War relics, included in which are bullets, revolvers, army muskets, tools for repairing muskets, an original package of cartridges which had never been untied, and many other interesting mementos of that terrible struggle. Not the least interesting of his Civil War relics, is a soldier's combination knife, fork and spoon, which closes up like a pocket knife.

Mr. Baker has been twice married, his first marriage occurring in the spring of 1867, when he was united to Susan Caroline Michael, and to this first union three children were born, Frank, Minnie and John, who died in infancy. In 1875 his first wife died, and a few years later he married Mrs. Delilah Vannator, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Dye) Vannator, and to this second union four children were born, Kitty May, who died at the age of two; John C., who died when he was about two years old; Ethel, the wife of A. G. Younce, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Orville J., who is now living in Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Baker has been a life-long Republican, and has been the recipient of various honors at the hands of his party. He has served three terms as marshal of Bellmore, and seven years as mayor. For eighteen years he held the important position of notary public and during Benjamin Harrison's administration he was postmaster of Bellmore. Mr. Baker joined the Methodist Episcopal church when he was fourteen years of age, and later in life became a member of the Church of God, serving as an elder in this denomination for some years. Later in life he became affiliated with the Evangelical church, to which he now gives his hearty support. Mr. Baker has always been prominent in the life of his community since he became a resident of the village, and has taken a conspicuous place as a leader and counselor in matters pertaining to the progress and betterment of the community.

WILLIAM CHESTER SHERRARD.

Faithfulness to facts in presenting the character of William Chester Sherrard is all that is required to make a biographical sketch interesting to those who have at heart the good name of the community. Mr. Sherrard has an honorable reputation and this, more than anything else, gives character and stability to the body politic and makes the true glory of city or state revered at home and respected abroad. In the broad light which things of good repute ever invite, the name and character of William Chester Sherrard is secure and, though of modest demeanor and no ambition to distinguish himself in public position or as a leader of men, his career has been signally honorable and it may be studied with profit by the young men entering upon their life work.

William Chester Sherrard was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio, on September 9, 1858, the son of William and Mary Jane (Caddy) Sherrard. William Sherrard was born on February 2, 1825, in Muskingum county, Ohio, the son of Henry and Barbara (Radabaugh) Sherrard, the former of whom was a native of Scotland and the latter of Germany. They had four sons and three daughters, William, Calvin, John, Mary, Elizabeth, Eliza and Henry.

Moving to Gilboa, when sixteen years of age, about 1840, William Sherrard remained with his parents until he was about twenty-four years of age. His father died when William was about seventeen years old and, being the eldest son, took his father's place on the farm. He was a man of better education than most men of his day and was self-made in every respect,

having acquired his education largely from home study. He died on September 14, 1891.

At the age of twenty-four, William Sherrard married Mary Jane Caddy, the marriage taking place on August 19, 1850. She was the daughter of Charles C. and Mary Ann (Dyer) Caddy, the latter of whom was born near Alexandria, Virginia, on September 15, 1815. Mary Jane Caddy was born on June 16, 1830, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and died in March, 1907.

Charles C. and Mary Ann Caddy had twelve children, Mary Jane, Dr. William; Robert, Ansel, Hester, Charles C., Elizabeth, Julian, Milton, Eva, Irene and James. Robert and Ansel were killed in the Civil War.

William Sherrard was a cabinetmaker and always followed this trade with the exception of ten years, when he was superintendent of the Putnam county infirmary. He also served in numerous official positions. He spent all of his life after his marriage in Putnam county, except one year, 1874, when he went to Kansas. He was highly respected and upright citizen, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Methodist Episcopal church.

William Chester Sherrard's grandfather, Charles C. Caddy, was a Methodist minister and a circuit rider. His son, Charles C., Jr., is an editor at Pendleton, Indiana. He is a Civil War veteran and during the war was, for a time, imprisoned at Andersonville.

William and Mary Jane Sherrard had eight children, Almeda, the widow of Eli Harris, of Leipsic; Eva, the wife of J. E. Peckenpough, of Leipsic; Prof. C. C., of Angola, Indiana; Dr. Ansel C., of Oakwood, Ohio; William Chester, the subject of this sketch; Mary Hester, the twin sister of William Chester and who died at the age of eleven years; Henry Bassett, of Narden, Oklahoma; Dr. Edward Everett, of Los Angeles, California.

William Chester Sherrard attended the common schools of Blanchard township, remaining on the farm with his parents until twenty-three years old, at which time he was married.

On March 16, 1882, William C. Sherrard was married to Carrie Maidlow, who was born in Blanchard township, Putnam county, on August 29, 1863, the daughter of James and Mary Ann (Buckland) Maidlow. The former was the son of John and Lucinda (Dowd) Maidlow. John Maidlow was a native of England and came with his father to America, landing at Baltimore in 1812, when he was thirteen years of age. He came on to Knox county, Ohio, married Lucinda Dowd in that county in 1834 and one year later came on to Putnam county. About the year 1836 he settled on the old Maidlow farm. In 1868 he was elected by the Democrats of the Tenth Ohio Congressional District as one of the two delegates to the national Democratic

convention, held in New York city, which nominated Horatio Seymour for President. While always taking an active part in politics, he frequently refused to receive nominations for office, claiming that the post of honor is a private station. On February 18, 1864, he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and died on December 6, 1889. The family history of Mary Ann Buckland is contained in the life story of Elah Buckland, found elsewhere in this volume. Lucinda M. Dowd was born at Mt. Vernon, Knox county, Ohio, on February 17, 1816, and married John Maidlow, February 18, 1834. They came to Putnam county, March 8, 1837. She was the grandmother of fifty-six children and the great-grandmother of forty. Her twelve children were James A., Elizabeth, Ann, Edward, William, Jane, Agnes, Alice, Laura, Martha, Spencer and Putman. James and Mary Ann Maidlow had a number of children, two of whom died in infancy, Viola, the wife of J. E. Nemire, of Tecumseh, Michigan; Alva R.; Carrie, the wife of Mr. Sherrard; Huldah, deceased, the wife of J. C. Anderson; Lucinda, the wife of Nate Hickerson; Alice, the wife of B. J. Conley; Fannie, unmarried and at home, and Mary, the wife of William McDonald, all of whom are residents of Putnam county except Viola.

To William C. and Carrie (Maidlow) Sherrard has been born one daughter, Bessie Dowd, the wife of E. C. Kuntz, of Leipsic. Graduating from the Leipsic high school, she spent four years at Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, where she was a member of the class of 1905.

After his marriage, William C. Sherrard continued to farm his father's old place in Blanchard township. About ten years later, he bought this farm and has lived here ever since. Mr. Sherrard has always kept a good grade of stock and has been a very successful farmer. He owns one hundred and fifty-one acres, which he has acquired by his own efforts, having started in life without any financial assistance.

Fraternally, Mr. Sherrard is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge No. 284, at Ottawa. He is a Democrat in politics and was a trustee for four years, his term ending in January, 1914. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Leipsic, Ohio, and takes an active interest in its affairs.

William C. Sherrard comes from one of the oldest and most highly respected families of Putnam county, a family of which he, in this late generation, has a good reason to be proud. Mr. Sherrard's honorable, upright life is a fitting tribute to the memories of his father, grandfather and other ancestors who set such splendid examples of worthy living.

HON. IGNATIUS H. KAHLE.

The late Ignatius H. Kahle spent his entire life in Putnam county, Ohio, and was one of its leading citizens, eminent and able, both in private business and in public life. Whether he was serving his fellow citizens in the capacity of a township official, or his legislative district in the capacity of a member of the state Legislature, he was faithful to every trust which was reposed in him. As a business man, he had those qualities of integrity and industry which made him successful, and at the same time earned for him the hearty commendation of his fellow citizens. In his domestic relations, he was above reproach and was never happier than when seated by his own fireside with his faithful wife and his children about him. He left a name which is honored by those who knew him and cherished by his children and his children's children.

Ignatius H. Kahle, the son of John Francis Kahle, was born in Greensburg, township, Putnam county, Ohio, on August 22, 1850, and died at his home in Glandorf, Ohio, on February 7, 1899. His father was a pioneer citizen of this county and came from Germany in 1832 with Professor Horstman and settled at Glandorf, in this county, the following year.

Having received his education in the district schools of Greensburg township, Ignatius H. Kahle, when only fifteen years of age, became a public school teacher, which honored occupation he followed for three years. When he reached his majority he was elected clerk of Greensburg township, and was re-elected term after term until 1882, when he was nominated and elected representative to the General Assembly of Ohio by a majority of twelve hundred and fifty-six. His service in the Legislature was so eminently satisfactory that he was renominated and elected a second time, by a majority of nineteen hundred and thirty-five, the largest ever given to a candidate in this county, up to that time.

Mr. Kahle made a notable record while a member of the state Legislature. During his second term the *Cincinnati Enquirer* paid a glowing tribute to him in the following words:

"Ignatius H. Kahle, the curly-headed boy of destiny from Putnam, is here pictured with one hand on the plow and the other on the helm of state. Those who know him best eulogize him in both positions. Returning from legislative duties he grapples with the plow or harrow and reaps a bountiful harvest of golden grain in the autumn. In mastering the intricacies of the law, he is no less successful, and is earnest, industrious, cautious, manly. You can count on the member from Putnam as a good Democrat and as a

good fellow. He is quiet and conservative in manner, but just the kind of a man you can sit down and talk to and be surprised at the information you have gained while talking."

At the close of his second term in the state Legislature Mr. Kahle continued to farm for a year, and in 1887 he engaged in the milling business at Glandorf. In the year following he engaged in the mercantile business at Glandorf with Mr. Kersting, and continued this dual kind of activity until 1893, in which year he went to Europe and visited Germany, France, Italy and Austria, taking with him his son, Frank G. Upon his return home he started in a small way the real estate and banking business at Glandorf, and in 1894 established the Bank of Ottawa, in partnership with Doctor Reed and W. H. Harper, Jr., and continued in charge of the bank until his death in 1899. As a legislator, business man, citizen and neighbor, he commanded the respect of all classes of people and was universally recognized as a man of honest convictions and sterling integrity in all things. He was genial and cheerful, and a man whose many ennobling qualities endeared him to everyone with whom he came in contact.

Mr. Kahle was married on November 4, 1875, to Mary A. Miehl. She was born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a daughter of George and Mary A. (Hegner) Miehl.

Mrs. Kahle's father was born in Rhenish Bavaria, and her mother was a native of Wurtemberg, Germany. When Mrs. Kahle was four years of age, in 1857, the family moved from Pittsburgh, to Carroll county, Ohio, and seven years later the family located in Greensburg township, Putnam county. Her parents resided on a farm here until old age, and then moved to a farm at Ottoville, where Mr. Miehl died on October 3, 1879, three days before his sixty-third birthday. His widow remained on the farm with the children about fifteen years and then married Peter Wannamaker, and moved to Ottoville, where she lived until her death, October 29, 1911, at the advanced age of eighty-six years.

Nine children were born to Ignatius H. and Mary A. (Miehl) Kahle, Frank G., cashier of the Bank of Ottawa Company, who married Gertrude Vocke, and has one son, Robert; Emma B. is the wife of Hubbard C. Gerding, and has two daughters, Mary and Eleanor; Adelia B., the wife of Frank Laibe; Laura M., the wife of George Laibe, and has a daughter, Laura Mae; George W., the assistant cashier of the bank; Harry L., a real estate man, who married Emma Hermiller, and has a daughter, Rosemary; and has a son, Ignatius Henry; Bertha M. and Mary Pauline, who are now attending St. Joseph's Academy at Adrian, Michigan.

After the death of Doctor Reed, the president of the bank, in the spring of 1913, Mrs. Kahle succeeded him and has the distinction of being the only woman in the state of Ohio, who is a president of a bank. The entire family are loyal members of the Catholic church.

JACOB J. FRAKER.

Jacob J. Fraker is one of the oldest farmers now living in Palmer township, Putnam county, Ohio. Mr. Fraker has not always been engaged in farming. For eleven years he was engaged in the mercantile business at Pleasant Bend, Ohio, and recalls that he sold provisions to many of the early settlers of Continental, Ohio, and vicinity, while conducting his general store at Pleasant Bend. Mr. Fraker has had many material misfortunes by fire, but he has not only been able to survive all of them, but has, in each case, taken hold of things with a characteristic which bespeaks energy and new determination. Altogether he now owns two hundred and five acres, one hundred and fifteen acres of which is located in section 5, sixty acres in section 3 and thirty acres in section 8. During recent years and while Mr. Fraker has been engaged in farming, he has combined with the raising of grain, the raising of good breeds of live stock. He at present has about one hundred head of Duroc-Jersey hogs on his place and raises a great many Shorthorn cattle. He takes great pride in a splendid Shorthorn bull which he keeps and which is the head of his herd. Jacob J. Fraker is a Swiss by birth and his career is an example of the fortitude, energy and determination which so generally characterizes the people of that world-famed democracy.

Jacob Fraker was born on December 10, 1848, in Altenburg, County of Aargau, Switzerland. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Miller) Fraker. Both his paternal and maternal grandparents were natives of Switzerland. The father of Jacob J. Fraker was one of six children. John Fraker had two sisters and three brothers and came to America in 1853 when Jacob J. was five years old. His wife was a native-born Swiss also. They settled in Defiance county, Ohio, on forty acres of wild and swampy land and lived there for twenty years. In 1862 John Fraker sold this farm and purchased eighty acres. He traded all of this land, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, for one hundred and sixty acres in Henry county and to this latter farm he moved, and where he lived until his death, in 1888. He had cleared the greater part of the farm and also other farms owned by him at the time

of his death, and erected the buildings on the farm now owned by his son, John, brother of the subject.

During his life, John Fraker was active in public affairs, having served on the school board and as supervisor in Defiance county. He was a Democrat in politics and a member of the German Reform church at Sherwood, in Defiance county. His wife, who before her marriage was Elizabeth Miller, died in 1895, when nearly eighty years of age. She has ably assisted her husband in building up the family fortune and had always been a loyal and faithful helpmeet. She was also a member of the German Reformed church.

As heretofore mentioned, Jacob J. Fraker was five years old when his parents came to America. During his early life, he lived in Defiance county on his father's farm. In fact, he lived with his father and mother until his marriage. Jacob J. Fraker has been married three times.

Mr. Fraker's first marriage took place on December 23, 1869, when he was married to Elizabeth Long, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Long. She was born in Crawford county, Ohio, where her parents had settled, and was married to Mr. Fraker in Defiance county. They had only one child, Mary, who married Charles Easton, of Continental, Ohio, and has five children, Orpha, George, William, Emma and Ralph.

Thomas and Mary Long were natives of different countries, he of Bavaria, Germany, and she of England. He was one of the first school teachers of Pennsylvania, having taught in Allegheny county, where he taught in both the German and English schools.

After Jacob J. Fraker's first marriage, his father assisted him in purchasing eighty acres of land in Marks township, Defiance county, where he farmed for three years and, after the death of Mrs. Fraker, in 1873, purchased forty acres more, which he farmed for a short time. He then traded his one hundred and twenty acres in Marks township for one hundred and sixty acres in Palmer township, Putnam county. Mr. Fraker moved to this farm in the fall of 1878 and two years later, on September 30, 1880, he was again married, this time to Mary A. Gardener, the daughter of Charles Gardener and wife. By this second marriage there were three children, the first died in infancy; Harmon Andrew, who was born on November 20, 1888, died on February 10, 1893, and Emma, who married Howard Converse and lives at the present time with Mr. Fraker. They have one child, Jacob Andrew, who was born on August 29, 1903. He is now attending district No. 2 school. Charles Gardener, the father of the second Mrs. Fraker, was a

native of Bavaria, Germany, but his wife was a native of Ohio. At the time of the birth of their daughter, Mary, they lived at Delphos, Allen county.

While the Clover Leaf railroad was being built through Putnam county and after Mr. Fraker's second marriage, he entered the general mercantile business at Pleasant Bend in Henry county, where he was appointed postmaster at that place and combined his business with this office. It was the first business of any importance in Pleasant Bend, in which he continued for about eleven years and during this time he was not only postmaster, but express and railroad agent. His store burned and he rebuilt it in 1889. After that he sold the stock, but retained the building, which burned a second time. In the meantime he had moved to his present farm in Palmer township, about October, 1889, and here erected a residence. Mr. Fraker cleared the farm and built many substantial buildings, also drained and fenced the land. When he purchased this farm there was no road in front of it. There were many trying ordeals to be overcome and these required much hard work and patience. Mr. Fraker was visited with a second great misfortune when his wife died in 1890. Three years later, on January 1, 1893, he was married to Mrs. Harriet Catherine (Elston) Clark, who was born in Grover Hill, Latta township, Paulding county, Ohio. She was the daughter of Levi and Cynthia Ann (Bennett) Elston. Mrs. Fraker was educated at Grover Hill and was married on December 18, 1881, to Harrison Clark, of Paulding county. They lived in Washington township on a farm. He died, June 29, 1892, and was buried in Paulding county. Mr. Clark served as a school director and was a prominent and influential member of the Christian church at the time of his death.

Levi Elston, the father of Mrs. Fraker, was a native of Dark county, Ohio, being born near Hill Grove on November 17, 1837. He died on September 26, 1901. His father was James Elston, who was also a native of Dark county. The Elstons were of German descent. Levi Elston was one of seven children, the others being Anna, Jane, Lydia, Mary, Louisa and John. Levi Elston and his brother both served in the Civil War. John lost an arm in the service and was wounded seven times. He took sick in camp and during this period was bravely nursed by his wife until he was well enough to join his comrades. James Elston and wife died near Grover Hill, Ohio. Cynthia Ann Bennett, the mother of Mrs. Fraker, was born in Dark county, Ohio, and was the daughter of William Bennett, who came from New Jersey. His wife was a native of Ireland. They settled in Dark county, Ohio, on a farm and had seven children, Mary, Cynthia Ann, Martha

E., Katherine, Edward, Jennie and William H. William H. served in the Civil War in an Ohio regiment and died of illness while in the service. About the close of the Civil War, William Bennett and wife, Mrs. Fraker's maternal grandparents, moved to Michigan and settled in Clinton county, where they lived until their death. Levi Elston and wife, the parents of Mrs. Fraker, were married near Grover Hill, Ohio, and settled in Latta township, Paulding county, on a farm at a time when it was a dense wilderness, where the wild animals roamed through the woods. They cleared the land and lived there a short time, but later moved to Washington township, where he died. His widow then made her home with her son, George, until her death. They had nine children, Harriet Catherine, who is now Mrs. Fraker; Mary L.; Samantha C.; John W.; Cora Isabelle; Josephine and George, all of whom live in Paulding county; Sylvia Ann and Amanda E., both of whom are deceased.

After the last marriage of Mr. Fraker, he came to his farm in Palmer township and here he and his wife have lived since that time. Mrs. Fraker has been a loyal and faithful helpmeet and has contributed to the improvement of the farm and the family fortune by her thrift and wise co-operation. They have never had any children, but Mrs. Fraker took Joseph S. Cattell to rear immediately after her first marriage. She has educated him and he has remained with her ever since. She has also reared Mary Clark, whom she took when she was five years old. Mary Clark married Al Pinkhaus and they now live in Decatur, Illinois.

Mr. Fraker is engaged in general farming. He sold twenty acres of his land about thirty-years ago and about twenty-five years ago, traded twenty-five acres for sixty acres in section 3, of Palmer township. Some time ago Mr. Fraker's house partly burned, but he has since rebuilt it, in which Mr. Fraker displayed great heroism in putting out the flames. He tore off part of the metal roof with his bare hands and for this feat has been widely admired by his neighbors. Formerly, Mr. Fraker was a member of the Masonic fraternity of Marks township, Defiance county. He served as school director for some years and is identified with the Democratic party. He is a member of the German Reformed church at New Bavaria and has served as trustee of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Fraker are charitable and hospitable people and substantial farmers. They are God-fearing people of the good old type, a type which is not so frequently met with now as formerly. Jacob J. Fraker is an intelligent citizen and has contributed much to the advancement of the community where he has lived so long.

J. W. SMITH.

J. W. Smith, the son of Manley B. and Abigail (Pickerill) Smith, was born in Brown county, Ohio, on May, 21, 1873. His father was a son of John G. and Keziah (Beveridge) Smith, and was born in Hocking county, Ohio, in 1845. John G. Smith was the son of Harrison Smith, a native of Pennsylvania and an early settler in Hocking county. Abigail Pickerill was born in Brown county, Ohio, the daughter of Josiah W. and Eleanor (West) Pickerill. Josiah W. Pickerill was born in Brown county, in 1818, a son of Samuel Pickerill, Jr., who was born in Kentucky in 1793, a son of Samuel Pickerill, Sr. Samuel Pickerill, Sr., was born in Charles county, Maryland, in 1757, and served for three years in the Revolutionary War in Captain Gallahue's company. This company was a part of Colonel Brent's regiment of Virginia troops. In 1792, Samuel Pickerill, Sr., came to Kentucky and in 1809 he moved to Brown county, Ohio, with his family, where he lived until 1850, dying at the age of ninety-three. Twelve children were born to Samuel Pickerill, Sr., and wife. Each one of these twelve children grew to maturity and reared families of their own, and by 1905 Samuel Pickerill, Sr., had over one thousand seven hundred descendants.

Eleanor West, the wife of Josiah W. Pickerill, was born in Brown county, Ohio, about 1820, and was the daughter of John and Lovina (Stewart) West. John West was born in 1797 and was the son of John and Eleanor West. John West, Sr., was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, serving in a Virginia regiment.

Manley B. Smith was a teacher in the public schools of Brown county for many years, but is now farming. J. W. Smith grew to maturity in Brown county and after finishing the public school course of his own township, became a student at Lebanon, Ohio, in the National Normal University. Later he was a student at the Northern Ohio Normal at Ada, and graduated from the latter school in 1894. Before he finished his college course, he had taught school a few years and, in fact he paid his way through college by teaching. In 1899 Mr. Smith came to Putnam county as superintendent of schools at Ottawa, and remained in this capacity for three years. In the meantime he studied law and, in 1902, was admitted to the bar. In politics he is a strong Democrat and from 1909 to 1913 held the office of prosecuting attorney of Putnam county. He has served on the state central committee of his party for six years.

J. W. Smith was married, in 1893, to Winifred Beck, a native of Brown county, Ohio, and a daughter of Herman and Sarah Beck. Mrs. Smith died in 1895, leaving two children, Winifred, who died a few months after her mother's death, and Lucile, who is now a student in college. In 1899 Mr. Smith married Mary Klein, a native of Brown county and a daughter of John and Catharine Klein, natives of Germany and now deceased. To this second union one son has been born, Stewart S., who is now eleven years of age.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, is a thirty-second degree Mason and a noble of the Mystic Shrine. He also holds his membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

H. F. RAUH.

A man of unusual attainments is H. F. Rauh, the editor of the *Der Demokrat* at Ottawa, Ohio. He spent several years, after leaving college, as a teacher, and is one of the leaders in educational matters in Putnam county for more than a quarter of a century. He is also an accomplished musician, and is one of the finest pipe-organists in the county. Since 1892 he has been associated with the *Der Demokrat* and has made this one of the ablest German papers in the whole state. Mr. Rauh is the kind of a man whose influence is always in behalf of higher and better things. In educational affairs, in church and in business his ideals are always high, and it can be safely said that he is one of the ablest men of his county.

H. F. Rauh, the son of Ignatius and Mary Anne (Weigelt) Rauh, was born on October 4, 1860, on a farm in Washington township, Mercer county, Ohio. His father was a millwright and came to this country from Germany when a young man and located in Mercer county. Mary Anne Weigelt also came to this country from Germany when young and located with her parents in Mercer county. Ignatius and Mary Anne (Weigelt) Rauh were the parents of six sons, the three eldest brothers becoming farmers, the fourth son a teacher, while the fifth son is H. F. Rauh, the subject of this sketch, and the sixth is a priest of the Catholic church. The father of these six sons died in May, 1869, and the mother was later deceased.

H. F. Rauh was educated in the district schools of Mercer county, Ohio, and later attended the high school one year at Ft. Recovery, and two

years in the schools at Celina. At the age of seventeen he began teaching and taught three years in Mercer county, and two years in Auglaize county, Ohio. However, wishing to get a better education, he stopped teaching and entered the Northern Normal School at Ada, Ohio, and also spent a few terms in the National Normal University at Lebanon. Afterward he spent two years in Pio Nono College, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he graduated with honors. It was in this college that he completed his German and musical education, specializing on the pipe-organ.

After graduating from Pio Nono College, in 1885, Mr. Rauh took charge of an academy in Denison, Texas, but after one year of successful work in that state he resigned in order to assume the superintendency of the Glandorf public schools. At the same time he became the organist of the St. John's Catholic church at Glandorf, and retained both positions for a number of years. Under his skillful management, the Glandorf schools were put in excellent shape and, without disparagement to previous instructors, it may be said that he was the best teacher which the schools had up to that time. While living in Glandorf, he helped to organize the Glandorf German Building and Loan Company and served as its first secretary for two years. In 1889 he was appointed school examiner of Putnam county, and was re-appointed in 1895. He has always taken a very active part in educational meetings and was elected president of the Putnam county teachers' institute in 1893. Before this time, however, he had become identified with *Der Demokrat*, a German newspaper in Ottawa. His connection with this paper began in May, 1892, and since March, 1893, he has been the sole proprietor of the paper, since which time Mr. Rauh has lived in Ottawa, where he has a beautiful home. He has been for a number of years a member of the Ottawa board of public affairs, and is also a director and stockholder of the Ottawa Building and Savings Association.

Mr. Rauh was married on July 26, 1893, to Mamie Anne Priesendorfer, a daughter of John M. and Elizabeth (Wilhelm) Priesendorfer, of Defiance, Ohio, and to this union seven children have been born, John Clarence, on September 18, 1894, died two weeks later; Carl H., November 7, 1895, deceased; Walter Ignatius, January 23, 1897; Agnes Lenore, December 17, 1898; Cornelius Anthony, September 21, 1900; Mary Bloise, February 5, 1905; James Emerson, died at the age of eleven months; Esther Irene, January 7, 1910.

Mr. Rauh and his family are all loyal members of the Catholic church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of Ohio, the Glandorf Aid Society and the Ottawa Aid Society. Mr. Rauh has always

The first of these is the fact that the British had been defeated at the Battle of York in 1781.

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The twenty-fifth is the fact that the British had been defeated at the Battle of the Clouds in 1805.

given his hearty support to the Democratic party, but has never been a seeker after political preferment. Mr. Rauh is a man of genial disposition and a man whose breadth of view makes him an ideal newspaper man.

JAMES WILLIS LOWRY.

In the year 1837 the first member of the Lowry family located in Putnam county, Ohio, and since that year the family have borne an honorable part in the history of the county. The remote ancestors of the Lowry family were French Huguenots, who settled in the valley of the Loire in France in the sixteenth century, and from the name of this river the family name is derived. Originally, the name was spelled "De Loire," but when the family removed to Scotland later the name was anglicized to "Lourie," while the members of the family who located in Ireland gave it its present orthography, "Lowry."

Driven out of France on account of religious persecution, the family sought a home in England and later removed to Scotland, where they were gentlemen farmers and owned their own estate. Some of them were in Cromwell's army during the civil war, in England, in the middle of the seventeenth century. After the death of Cromwell and the end of the Commonwealth the family located in Ireland. When they first came to America the branch of the family which ultimately settled in Putnam county, Ohio, went from England to County Down, Ireland, and there Robert Lowry was born in 1749.

Robert Lowry was the first member of the family to come to America, and he located here in 1804 with his wife, Mary Johnston, and three sons, Robert, James and William. Another son, Johnston, came to the United States a year or so before that, and the whole family located on a farm of two hundred acres at Poland Center, Mahoning county, Ohio, for which they received a deed in 1811. The family were of high character, sober, honest, industrious, and were useful members of the church, and of the community in which they lived. They helped form the Poland Center Seceder church in 1804, of which Robert Lowry was one of the first elders. Their eldest son, Robert Lowry, Jr., born in Ireland in 1776, married Rebecca Stewart, a native of Scottish ancestry and high lineage. She was born in York county, now Adams county, Pennsylvania, in 1786, or the year following, and died in 1846, near Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio.

Robert and Rebecca (Stewart) Lowry moved to a farm near Leipsic, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1837, having lived previous to their marriage in Mahoning county, where they were married in 1813. Rebecca Stewart was a daughter of Robert Stewart, who was a son of Samuel, a son of Robert, who in turn, was a son of John, a descendant from Walter, the first Stewart of Scotland. Walter Stewart was the second son of Alan, who was a Norman and came to England with William the Conqueror, and his descendants have sat on nearly every throne in Europe.

In May, 1837, Robert and Rebecca (Stewart) Lowry, began their life in Putnam county. He bought a farm on which he resided until his death, August 27, 1848. His wife died on June 9, 1846. Robert Lowry was short in stature, a great reader and probably the best educated member of the family.

Robert Johnstone Lowry, the eldest of their four children, and the father of James Willis, with whom this narrative deals, was born on September 10, 1816, at Poland Center, Mahoning county, Ohio. He came to Putnam county, with his parents, and here married Olive S. McConnell. She was born on January 24, at Windham, Portage county, Ohio, and was a daughter of Nicholas McConnell, who moved with his family to Leipsic in 1836, and bought a farm. The wife of Robert J. Lowry taught the first term of school in Liberty township, in Putnam county. She died on May 20, 1904, and she and her husband are both buried in the McConnell cemetery at Leipsic. Robert J. Lowry was a farmer in early life, but after his health failed he moved to Leipsic and opened a general store in 1850. In 1862 he moved to Urbana, Ohio, where he bought a store, and died on April 30, 1862. After his death, the family moved back to Leipsic, where his widow spent the remainder of her days. Robert J. Lowry was a Republican and served as justice of the peace for eight or ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Lowry and all of the family were members of the United Presbyterian church; he and his wife being among the founders of the Presbyterian church in Leipsic.

James Willis Lowry is the youngest of six children born to his parents. He was born a few months after his father's death and grew to manhood in West Leipsic. After his marriage he began farming on his present farm and has continued to reside there since that time. He and his brother, A. J., have about two hundred acres of land, well improved, and one of the best and most productive farms of the county.

In September, 1884, James W. Lowry was married to Nellie Lenhart, who was born on the farm where Mr. Lowry is now living, and who is a

daughter of Henry S. and Adeline (Braught) Lenhart. Her parents came from Pennsylvania to Salem, in eastern Ohio. Henry Lenhart was the sixth son of Jacob and Lydia Lenhart, and was born on December 3, 1823. Jacob Lenhart was a minister in the River Brethren church, and a son of Philip Lenhart, who lived near Ephrata, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Henry Lenhart settled west of Leipsic and was a life-long farmer.

J. W. and Nellie (Lenhart) Lowry have two children living and one deceased: Chloe, May 23, 1888, and died August 9, 1888; Serge, born on December 4, 1889, who married Mary Anderson, of Monmouth, Illinois, and Henry Forest, June 17, 1901. Mr. Lowry and his family are members of the United Presbyterian church, of Toledo. He is active in the welfare of his community along every line. He has been master of the Grange ever since it was organized, with the exception of two years, and is always active in the fight for temperance. He has served about fifteen years on the school board and has frequently acted as executor of estates, and has settled no less than ten estates, always giving uniform satisfaction in the administering of such duties. He has been a life-long Republican and has always taken an intelligent interest in the affairs of his party. Hospitality is a feature of the Lowry family, and the wayfarer is always sure to receive a warm and hearty welcome at their pleasant home.

WILLIAM M. FRENCH.

The whole career of more than sixty years of William M. French has been spent within the limits of Putnam county, Ohio. He was reared and educated in the county, and after his marriage located on a farm in Van Buren township, where he has since resided. He has engaged in general farming and stock raising and his farm bears ample witness to the thrift and enterprise of its owner.

William M. French, the son of James and Catherine (Stout) French, was born at Gilboa, Putnam county, Ohio, on November 23, 1854. His father was born in Virginia and came to Putnam county, Ohio, when a small boy and made his home with Robert Steward. His parents had died when he was very young and Mr. Steward and his wife took him into their family and gave him a good home until he was grown. He attended the public schools at Gilboa and when a young man started in for himself by buying a grist-mill at Gilboa. He also assisted his future father-in-law on

the farm, who was one of the largest landowners in the township. In addition to operating the grist-mill, he learned the carpenter trade and worked at various times at this business. James French married Catherine Stout, a daughter of Elisha and Abigail Stout, natives of Licking county, Ohio, and to this union six children were born, Margaret, Elisha, Elizabeth, William M., Mary and James C. Margaret and Elisha died in infancy, and Elizabeth died unmarried. Mary became the wife of H. Higgenbottom, of Phoenix, Arizona, and has two children, Leo and Bertha, both of whom are married. James C. married Elizabeth Carr.

William M. French spent his boyhood days in Blanchard township, and received such education as was afforded by the district schools of his boyhood days. He continued to reside on the home farm with his parents, northeast of Gilboa, until he was thirty years of age, when he married and moved onto his present farm, where he has since resided.

Mr. French was married to Clara Guear, a daughter of David and Catherine (Conine) Guear. Her father came with his parents from Virginia when he was eight years of age and located in Licking county, Ohio, while her mother was a native of Licking county, and her grandmother a native of Connecticut.

JOHN G. YENNER, JR.

A retired farmer of Putnam county, Ohio, who is now making his home in Ottawa, is John G. Yenner, Jr., who was born in this county more than sixty years ago. He comes from sturdy German parentage, and has inherited from his ancestors those characteristics of the German people which insure success in whatever occupation they choose to direct their energies. Mr. Yenner has been a life-long farmer and when he retired from his farm in 1911 to spend his declining years in the county-seat, he owned three hundred and forty acres of excellent land in the county.

John G. Yenner, Jr., the son of John G. and Christina (Bauer) Yenner, was born in Liberty township, Putnam county, Ohio, in 1852. His father was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1820, and grew to manhood in his native country. Christina Bauer was born in Erdmanhausen, District of Marboch, in the kingdom of Wurttemberg, Germany, near the city of Stuttgart, on July 14, 1827. She passed away at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Pitney, in Leipsic, August 10, 1913, at

the age of eighty-six years and twenty-six days. She was united in marriage to John G. Yenner in 1849. They were both born in the same place and grew up and married there. In the spring of 1852 they came to America and after a short stop at Columbus, Ohio, and in Findlay, they located in Liberty township, Putnam county, where John G. Yenner, Jr., now has a splendid farm. Christina (Bauer) Yenner was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church in her native land and continued faithful to the end. In her later years she lived as in the presence of God. Her chosen devotions were sweet and sacred to her. She loved to read sermons in the German language when she was no longer able to attend church. Her husband died eleven years before she did. After his death she lived with her daughters, Mrs. G. C. Mack and Mrs. George Pitney.

In his native land, John G. Yenner, Sr., was a cooper by trade, but after coming to America, devoted all of his time to farming. There were ten children born to John G. Yenner, Sr., and wife, Mrs. Mary M. Pitney, John G., Jr., George S., Mrs. Matilda Mack, Carl, William, Mrs. Pauline Schey, Mrs. Caroline Konst, Mrs. Annie Konst, and one who died in infancy.

John G. Yenner, Jr., received all of his education in the schools of Liberty township and lived on his father's farm until his marriage, at the age of twenty-two. He then operated his father-in-law's farm in Liberty township for two years, after which he built a house of his own and began farming for himself. He continued in active life on the farm until 1911, when he moved to Ottawa, where he now resides. During his long career on the farm he accumulated three hundred and forty acres of excellent land, nine acres of which is in Ottawa, and the remainder in Liberty township. He was an extensive stock raiser while on the farm and made it a rule to keep nothing but high grade stock. Altogether John G. Yenner, Jr., has four farms all in Liberty township and in a part of the county noted for its fine farms and fine country homes. Mr. Yenner's farm is counted one of the best and his buildings are among the most substantial.

Mr. Yenner was married in 1874 to Almira Clark, the daughter of Samuel and Malinda (Todd) Clark. Her parents came from Wayne county, Ohio, about 1845, and located in Blanchard township, Putnam county, where her father owned a farm and ran a blacksmith shop. Her father lived at various places while he followed the trade of a blacksmith, and also operated a saw-mill and grist-mill at Medary for some time.

John G. and Almira (Clark) Yenner are the parents of seven children, the first dying in infancy. The six living are as follow: Effie M., the widow of John H. Mullett, who died in 1910, and the mother of five chil-

dren, Floyd, Lola, Carl, Esta and Wava; Myrtle, who is at home; Harry, a farmer of Liberty township, who married Lydia Harter, and has two children, Doris and Clarence, the mother of these children dying in 1913; Lillie, the wife of Harry Haughn, of Medary, Liberty township, and the mother of four children, Gladys, Geneva, Thelma and Wilma; Zoe, the wife of Fred Hauk, a farmer of Liberty township, and the mother of two children, Richard and Robert; and Alva, who is managing the old homestead, married Bertha King and has two children, Madonna and Dale.

Mr. Yenner and his family are members of the Lutheran church. Externally, he is identified with the Free and Accepted Masons and is a member of the Reindeer lodge. He is a Democrat and took an active part in the civic life of his township. He served as trustee of Liberty township for two terms and for a number of years was a member of the school board.

AUGUST H. WEHINGER.

The Ottawa Tile Company is one of the most important business concerns of Putnam county. In 1907 the four Wehinger brothers, August H., William A., Frank J. and Joseph C. bought the tile factory of C. B. Van Cleve, at Ottawa, which plant was located just south of the present factory of the Ottawa Tile Company. In 1911, the brothers organized the Ottawa Tile Company, the present officers of which are as follow: President, William A. Wehinger; secretary and treasurer, August H. Wehinger; vice-president, Frank J. Wehinger; general manager, Joseph C. Wehinger. In 1909 they built the present plant and have since enlarged it in order to take care of their constantly increasing business. They have four kilns and manufacture a great amount of drain tile, as well as hollow and solid brick.

August H. Wehinger, the son of Antone and Abby (Lenhart) Wehinger, was born on October 4, 1874, at Piqua, Ohio. His father was a native of Germany, coming to this country with his parents when a babe in arms. They located at Loramie, Shelby county, Ohio, and in that place Antone Wehinger grew to manhood and married Abby Lenhart, a native of Shelby county, Ohio, and a daughter of Adam and Mary Lenhart. Antone Wehinger was a shoemaker until 1897, and then engaged in the manufacture of tile at Gutman, Auglaize county, Ohio. Six years later he bought a farm in that county, near Wapakoneta, where he is now living.

Augustus H. Wehinger remained at home until his marriage. He

learned the tile-making business in his father's factory and assisted his father until 1907, when he came to Ottawa and engaged in the same business with his brothers.

On October 19, 1898, Augustus H. Wehinger was married to Mary Debbie Thrush, who was born near St. Johns, Auglaize county, Ohio, a daughter of B. R. and Margaret (Bailey) Thrush. Her father has been a life-long farmer and has lived all of his life on the farm where he was born. The Thrush family were pioneer settlers in Auglaize county. Mr. Wehinger and his wife are members of the Catholic church, and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and other orders.

Joseph C. Wehinger was born in 1884 on his father's farm near Wapakoneta, Ohio. After receiving a good common-school education, he entered his father's tile factory, where he learned the business with his brothers. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age and then came to Ottawa and became a partner with his brothers in the tile factory at that place. He was married in 1906 to Odessa Irwin, who was born in Hardin county, Ohio, twelve miles west of Kenton, near the village of Roundhead, and is a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Keith) Irwin. Her father was formerly in the tile business at Kenton, but is now living a retired life at Geyer. Joseph C. Wehinger and wife have three children, Glenna Marie, Celia A. and Adelia Isabel. The family are all members of the Catholic church and Mr. Wehinger belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The wife of J. C. Wehinger is of Irish parentage on her father's side.

The Wehinger Brothers are excellent business men and their factory at Ottawa gives employment to several men. Their product is shipped all over this section of the state of Ohio, and their business is constantly increasing.

THEODORE HASELMAN.

Farming has been the basis of many large fortunes, but fortunes from the farm are built up out of self-denial, industry, economy and good foresight. The German people have been successful farmers because possessed of all these qualities. For many years the Haselman family have been among the most prominent, enterprising and successful farmers of Putnam county, Ohio.

Theodore Haselman, a prominent and successful farmer of Liberty

township, was born in 1866, one mile west of where he is now living. He is a son of John and Catherine (Beihmer) Haselman. John Haselman was a native of Germany, his birth occurring at Munster, where he grew to manhood. While still a young man, he came to America, from Antwerp, the voyage occupying six weeks. He located first in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked as a box maker, afterward starting a box factory of his own. In 1863 he moved to Putnam county, Ohio, and purchased one hundred and twelve acres of land in the southern part of Liberty township, where he farmed the remainder of his life. His wife, Catherine Beihmer, was also a native of Munster, Germany, and came to this country when about twenty-three years of age, the ocean journey, owing to storms and icebergs, covering a period of three months, after which she was married to Mr. Haselman. They were the parents of nine children, of whom three are living, William, Catherine and Theodore.

Theodore Haselman grew up on the home farm and lived there until his marriage, on April 27, 1887, in which year he married Anna Schumacker, who was born at Glandorf, in this county, the daughter of Joseph John and Mary (Wellman) Schumacker. Joseph John Schumacker was born at Glandorf, Ohio, a son of Anthony Schumacker and wife, who came from Germany and settled at Glandorf, in this county, with the early pioneers. In those days it was necessary to carry grain to Findlay, Ohio, a distance of twenty miles, to have it ground, which was an inconvenience because of the time consumed in going to and from the mill. Anthony Schumacker and wife spent their lives at Glandorf. Joseph Schumacker was a carpenter and farmer, having learned the former trade when sixteen years of age. His wife, Mary Wellman, was born at Delphos, Ohio, the daughter of Conrad Wellman and wife, natives of Germany, who came to America about 1840. Joseph Schumacker spent most of his life at Glandorf, but now lives on a farm south of Ottawa. His wife died on October 4, 1886.

When John Haselman, the father of Theodore, arrived in America, he had no money, and was in debt. He made his own way entirely, starting with nothing and gradually working his way to the front. He first purchased a little place at Ottoville, but disposed of it later after a high flood, when he bought land in Liberty township, adding to it as he was able until, at the time of his death, he was worth over forty thousand dollars.

As soon as Theodore Haselman married, he began farming on his present farm. He had one hundred acres with which to start, but now owns two hundred and eight acres of fine farming land. He has overcome many difficulties during his career in this township. Mr. Haselman had a large family of fifteen children, losing three of them in seven months, and has

had eight deaths occur in his home. Theodore and Anna (Schumacker) Haselman have nine children living, Anna is the wife of Henry Wyant, and lives on a farm west of Leipsic. They have three children, Gilbert and Hildegard, twins, and Carmeleta. The other eight children are, Joseph, Aloysious, Lucinda, Adeline, Marcelline, Colletta, Estella and Theodore.

Mr. Haselman is enterprising, progressive and possessed of a genial disposition, and is well known throughout Putnam county as one of its best farmers. The Haselman family are all active and devout members of the Catholic church, in whose welfare they are deeply interested, and to whose support they are liberal contributors.

JOHN E. JONES.

Agriculture has always been an honorable vocation and at the present time the agricultural output of the United States is more than equivalent to the total output of all the factories of the country put together. There is one thing in the life of a farmer which distinguishes it from any other occupation. It is the farmer's ability to exist independent of other vocations. The merchant, the banker and the manufacturer are all dependent absolutely upon the farmer's crop. A famine throughout this country would bankrupt the strongest merchant, wreck the largest bank and close the most extensive factories. Business men can see their business collapse within a week, but nothing short of an earthquake can ruin the farmer. Land is and always has been, the most favorable financial investment. Panic may sweep the manufacturer out of his business over night, but the farmer can survive when every other business fails. Putnam county farmers are equal to those to be found anywhere in the world. Their history is largely the history of the material advancement of the county. Among these splendid farmers there is none more deserving of recognition than John E. Jones, of Pleasant township.

John E. Jones was born on December 24, 1870, in Richland township, Allen county, Ohio. He is a son of Philip and Area (Buckingham) Jones, whose history is to be found elsewhere in this volume in the life sketch of Charles Jones, of Pleasant township.

Mr. Jones left Allen county with his parents when one year old and came to Pleasant township, Putnam county, Ohio. After his marriage he left home and farmed for one year in Pleasant township and three years in

Riley township, Putnam county. In the latter township he owned forty acres of land, which he afterward sold and purchased eighty acres in Union township, in this county, and farmed on this place for three years, at the end of which time he sold and purchased the John Light farm, consisting of one hundred acres in section 22. He farmed this place for nine years, and again sold out, when he removed to his present farm of one hundred and three acres, in Pleasant township, on March 1, 1912. During that year Mr. Jones built a splendid new barn, thirty-six by sixty-two feet with slate roof, concrete floors and thoroughly modern in every respect. He has remodeled his house and lives in a splendid and comfortable home, thoroughly modern and up-to-date.

John E. Jones was married on December 24, 1893, to Laura Henderson, the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Hartman) Henderson. Thomas Henderson is a native of Shelby county, Ohio, who came to Putnam county in 1872. He moved to Allen county after his marriage and remained there for a period of four years, where he was a farmer. He then came to Putnam county and settled on a farm in Pleasant township. Here he rented land for a couple of years and then purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Pleasant township, about two and one-half miles northwest of Columbus Grove, where he farmed for four years, when he traded his farm for another tract of land about one-half mile north of Columbus Grove, which farm he operated for thirty-five years. Mr. Henderson now lives at Elmore, Ohio, and is near eighty years of age. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Columbus Grove and a school director and township supervisor, as well as township trustee for two terms. Incidentally, he was a staunch Republican, and a member of the United Brethren church. His wife was also a native of Shelby county, Ohio, her death occurring in 1894 on the homestead farm in Pleasant township, at the age of fifty-six years. She was a daughter of Jonathan Hartman. Thomas Henderson and wife were the parents of eight children, William, James and John are deceased; Laura is the wife of a Mr. Jones; Mary is deceased, and Edward is still living in Pleasant township. The seventh and eighth of these children died in infancy.

John E. and Laura (Henderson) Jones have had seven children, Stella died at the age of five years; the fourth child died in infancy; Anna, the youngest child, died at the age of ten months; Ruth, Clarence, Ralph and Lawrence are still living.

Mr. Jones is a Republican, and has always taken an active interest in local public affairs. He was township trustee of his home township for two

years, 1911 and 1912, and has been a member of the school board for some years, but is not active, however, at this time. He is a stanch member of the United Brethren church at Columbus Grove, in which denomination he is a trustee. The family are also members of the church and take an active interest in its welfare. Mr. Jones is congenial in his manner, possessed of a sterling character and is a good farmer, believing strongly in modern methods of agriculture and good roads. John E. Jones regards farming as a science and his success is largely due to the fact that he has farmed along scientific lines.

JOSEPH H. EDWARDS.

Civilization is a matter of organization of men and materials and lays out roadways, builds factories, equips them with machinery, educates men to the use of this machinery, all for the purpose of converting raw materials into useful commodities, men and materials being organized so as to build, manufacture, distribute and transport the necessities of life. The first necessity in organization is initiative. An initiative is imagination in action. Initiative does not imply merely the suggestion of the right things; men of initiative are men who carry their plans to a successful issue. Intelligent supervision of the labor of other men is a rare gift. Nine out of ten men do not possess it at all. Hardly one in ten thousand can do it well. That there are enormous differences in the casual power exerted by different minds, depending on their place of vantage in the social system, is, of course, true. Most men merely echo the prevailing opinion or swell the general tide of thought. The contribution of a single member of the mass is not comparable with that of an individual who occupies a place of prominence or authority. Such a mind operates at a source, coloring all that springs from it, or at a crucial point where every slight deflection is enormously magnified in the consequence. From such minds come the models of opinion; it is such minds that actuate the men of light and leading, the directors in the greater affairs of mankind. Happy is the community in which there are men possessed of such minds, men of initiative, the born leaders of society; men who instinctively and by inherent right, though modestly and with a reserve born of their intuitive sense of right proportion, take the direction of affairs in whatever course of action they decide upon. In Putnam county there are numerous examples of this sort, men who are acknowledged to be the natural



JOSEPH H. EDWARDS.

leaders in their several fields of action; leaders in the political, social and religious life of the county, directors in the financial affairs of the community and managers of great industrial concerns, and all are glad to do these men honor, for to their initiative and sense of direction much of the prosperity of the commonwealth is due. Among the men thus included none is better known or more highly regarded in the community in which his natural leadership so long has proved its value than Joseph H. Edwards, banker, manufacturer and capitalist, of Leipsic, this county, a brief and modest review of whose career is here presented, not only for the information of the present reader of this valuable historical work, but for the guidance of the future historian who may seek in these pages a proper reflection of the life of the present generation in this county.

Joseph H. Edwards was born in Licking county, Ohio, in the year 1852, the son of Thomas W. and Isabel (Huston) Edwards, the former of whom was the son of Walter Edwards, a native of Wales, who came to America with his parents when he was twelve years of age and was reared on a farm on which his parents located in Muskingum county, Ohio.

Walter Edwards grew to manhood on the paternal farm in Muskingum county and there married and reared his family, achieving by right of worth and industry, an honorable place in the community. There, in the year 1823, was born his son, Thomas W., who grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving such education as the schools of that district were able to supply at that time. Thomas W. Edwards married Isabel Huston, a member of one of the pioneer families of Licking county, Ohio, and about the year 1861 came to Putnam county, locating his family on a farm three miles east of the town of Leipsic, where he remained until advancing years warned him to retire from the active life of the farm, whereupon he moved into the town of Leipsic and spent the rest of his life, his death occurring on December 3, 1905, his wife having predeceased him several years, her death having occurred in 1892. Thomas W. Edwards was a man of excellent parts, a fine farmer and a good citizen in all that much-abused term implies. His influence ever was exerted in behalf of good things and the people in that part of the county hold his memory and that of his gentle wife in the highest respect to this day.

To Thomas W. and Isabel (Huston) Edwards were born seven children, all of whom are now deceased save Joseph H., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary, the wife of A. J. Hoffman, and Sarah, the wife of E. S. Perry. James and David Edwards died in infancy; W. W. Edwards, for many years a partner with his brothers in a business way, died in 1913, and

John, who also was for many years associated with his brothers in their extensive business interests, died in 1901.

Joseph H. Edwards was reared on the paternal farm east of Leipsic and, besides attendance on the district school in that neighborhood, received a course of several years of instruction in special schools conducted in Leipsic at that period. Upon reaching manhood's estate he, for three years, followed farming, but finding that this manner of living did not agree with his health, he sold his farm and for about twelve years was engaged in the hardware business in the town of Leipsic. At the end of this time he formed a partnership with his brothers, W. W. and John, and in connection with I. N. Bushing, engaged in the cooperage business, under the firm style of the Buckeye Stave Company. This company was incorporated in the year 1893 and prospered from the very start. Factories were established in Leipsic, Columbus Grove, Continental, Pleasant Bend, Ohio, and Elm Center, in this county, and as the demand for the company's product grew, other factories were established at various points in Ohio and southern Michigan, operating twenty cooperage plants for several years, being the largest manufacturers of stock barrel cooperage in the world at the time, the firm continuing the business so long as the accessibility of timber made profitable this form of industry. As fast as the timber was cleared from the large land holdings taken up by this company in this county, the land was drained and otherwise improved and brought under cultivation, much of this land proving so valuable that it still is held by the company, which owns about two thousand acres in Putnam county alone.

While thus engaged so extensively in the cooperage business, the Buckeye Stave Company established a bank at Leipsic and later a bank at Continental, this county, both of which are operated as private banks, the interests being held by the stockholders of the Buckeye Stave Company. These banks are classed as among the soundest and most prosperous financial institutions in this part of the state, the personal responsibility back of the two banks being more than two million dollars. The Edwardses also are stockholders in the National Bank of Commerce of Toledo, Ohio, and in the National Lime and Stone Company, of Carey, Ohio, while some of the stockholders in the Buckeye Stave Company also are interested in the Buckeye National Bank of Findlay, Ohio; the Toledo Machine and Tool Company, of Toledo, Ohio; the National Quarries Company, of Lima, Ohio, and many other enterprises. John Edwards died in 1901 and W. W. Edwards died in 1913, but their respective estates retained their interests in the stave company's extensive enterprises, having able representatives in the several departments of that company's multiplying activities.

In 1875 Joseph H. Edwards was united in marriage to Mary Folk, who was born in Licking county, Ohio, the daughter of Lorenzo and Calista (Adams) Folk, an old family of that section, and to this union five children were born, as follow: Flossie, who married C. D. Closson, of Circleville, Ohio, and has three children, Helen, Dorothy and Catherine; Mae, who married C. P. Palmer, cashier of the Continental Bank, at Continental, Ohio, and has one son, Paul; Serge F., born on May 25, 1884, who is in the bank at Leipsic with his father, married Myrtle Burke and has two children, Mary and Joseph; Helen, who died in 1912, at the age of nineteen years, and an infant daughter who died in 1896.

Mr. Edwards and his family are members of the Methodist church and are earnest participants in the various activities of that organization, their influence ever being exerted in behalf of all movements designed to advance the common interest. Though not what may be called a "party man" in the stricter sense of the term, Mr. Edwards gives his thoughtful consideration to the political affairs of the county, his voice and his vote ever being enlisted in behalf of good government. Naturally, in view of his wide business interests in this and neighboring counties, Mr. Edwards unconsciously wields a large influence on men and affairs in this part of the state and it is but proper to state that this influence only is exerted on the side of those things that are true and of good report. Without thought of creating invidious distinctions among individuals in such personal mention of the prominent citizens of Putnam county as is made in this volume, the biographer feels properly warranted in making the statement here that Mr. Edwards is a man of whom his community and this entire county may well be proud, a man whom all his friends honor and take delight in so doing. Both in his business and in his private life he is an exemplary citizen, modest and quiet in his demeanor and courteous to all. Modestly sensible of the high position which his extensive activities give him, he would be the last to abuse the power such a position entails and, therefore, enjoys the respect and esteem of all within his very large circle of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Edwards is an enthusiastic supporter of all legitimate public improvements and there are few men in Putnam county who are more actively concerned in promoting the larger interests of the community. It hardly is fitting in a review of this character to refer to an individual's private benefactions, but it properly enough may be stated that it is an open secret that there are many persons in the neighborhood of his home who, in times of need, have had cause for gratitude that Mr. Edwards not only has a tender ear for the cry of distress, but an open hand to supplement the appeal.

HENRY J. LAMMERS.

In making up the list of the progressive and successful farmers of Putnam county for presentation in the biographical section of a work as comprehensive as the one in hand, the name of the well-known Liberty township farmer, whose name heads this sketch, comes easily to mind, for he is one who has succeeded by force of inherent qualities which make him one of the leaders in the community in which his entire life has been spent and where his parents had lived before him, and it is but fitting that this sketch of his life should here be preserved for the consideration of the future historian who may take up the important work of reviewing the history of this section. The history of a commonwealth is but the aggregate of the individual histories of the various units which compose the commonwealth and of the manifold factors which operate in creating the distinctive community. Of these factors none is more important than the farmer and the biographies of the farmers, who have done so much toward creating the wealth and distinction of Putnam county, will be regarded as very valuable contributions to the history of this time when this history is reviewed in after years. The name of Henry J. Lammers of Liberty township is, therefore, gladly added to this important list by the present biographer.

Henry J. Lammers was born on January 8, 1868, on the farm on which he still lives on the south edge of Liberty township, Putnam county, the son of Barney, Sr., and Theresia (Recker) Lammers, well-known residents of that section of the county, a sketch of whose careers is given on another page of this volume.

Henry J. Lammers was but five years of age when death bereft him of his mother. The father, however, kept the home together and young Henry grew up under careful direction, receiving his education in the schools of his home township and learning the ways of a farmer's life. Upon coming to young manhood he accepted the management of a second farm which his father owned on the north edge of Ottawa township, where he remained until the time of his marriage, at which time he moved back to the home farm in Liberty township, which he ever since has made his home.

On November 27, 1889, Henry J. Lammers was united in marriage to Eva Mary Bock, who was born near New Cleveland, in Ottawa township, Putnam county, a daughter of Nicholas and Catherine (Otto) Bock, who for years were among the best-known German residents of that part of the county.

Nicholas Bock was born near Coblenz, in the Rhine province of Germany, and about the year 1852 came to America with his mother and sisters, among others in the party, which at that time joined the German colony in this county, being the family of Nicholas Otto, of whom the latter's daughter Catherine was one. In Cleveland, upon their arrival in this state, Nicholas Bock and Catherine Otto were married and the young bridegroom and his father-in-law bought in Ottawa township, Putnam county, a farm of eighty acres, the place on which Val Mack now lives, south of New Cleveland. Nicholas Otto was a maker of shoes in the old country and upon coming to this county followed this trade in connection with his farm work, his handicraftsmanship being much appreciated by his new neighbors. After many years of residence in this county, he moved to Deschler, later returning to Putnam county, taking up his residence in Ottawa, where he spent the remainder of his life.

When Nicholas Bock took up his residence in this county about 1852, the section where he settled was virgin forest. Until he and his father-in-law could build a cabin, the family was given the occupancy of the neighborhood school house. The cabin which was quickly thrown up, later gave way to a much better house, which is still standing. Nicholas Bock was a good farmer and also a good shoemaker. Until later in life he remained on the farm in Ottawa township and then he and his wife moved to Leipsic, in this county, where Mrs. Bock, some years later, died. The death of Mr. Bock occurred some years after the death of his wife, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Laubenthal, south of New Cleveland.

Nicholas and Catherine (Otto) Bock had twelve children, of whom the only present survivors are Mrs. Lammers, Mrs. John Nadler and Mrs. John Laubenthal; those who have gone before being Susan, who married Henry Beckers; Rosa, who married Henry Kolhoff; Dena, who married Albert Busching; Jacob; Andrew; Nicholas; Valentine, and three who died in infancy. Nicholas Bock had a sister who was reared in a convent at Munster and who eventually became the Sister Superior of the convent.

After his marriage, Henry J. Lammers moved to the old home place in Liberty township, where he was born, and ever since he made his home and where he has reared his family. To his union with Eva Mary Bock seven children were born, Edward H., who married Theresia Klausung and lives in Liberty township; Anna Theresia, who married Theodore Jerivers and died August 29, 1914, leaving two children, Clara Henrietta and Esther Emma; Albert Barney, at home; Reginia Catherine, died at the age of eleven

years and five months; Veronica Catherine, at home; Frances Theresia, at home, and Rosa Elmore, who died at the age of four years and seven months.

Mr. Lammers is a man of prominence in his neighborhood and takes an active part in the affairs of the community. He is an earnest follower of the principles of Thomas Jefferson and his counsels are regarded as valuable by the local managers of the Democratic party, his services during the past eight years as precinct committeeman for that party having gained for him general political recognition over the county. In January, 1908, he was appointed to the important and responsible position of director of the county infirmary and for four years held that position, his administration of the affairs of that trying office giving general satisfaction. Since retiring from that position he has added to his general farm work the business of buying and selling live stock, shipping in carload lots, in which business he has been quite successful.

The members of the Lammers family are devoted adherents of the Catholic church at New Cleveland and are active in the various beneficences of their parish, being regarded as among the leaders in the movements which seek to advance the general welfare of the neighborhood, and very properly are held in the highest esteem by all who know them. Mr. Lammers is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, in the local doings of which fraternal organization he takes much interest.

ISAAC H. BARNES.

No more substantial and moral citizen has ever come to Putnam county, Ohio, than Isaac H. Barnes, a well-known farmer of Jennings township. As a man, Mr. Barnes has been characterized by industry and a patience which overcomes all obstacles, and thus insures success in whatever undertaking one may choose to follow. Putnam county has been honored by many successful and enterprising farmers, but none of them is more honored or more highly respected than Mr. Barnes, who served his country faithfully during the dark days of the Civil War, and afterward won a comfortable competence for his old age by dint of hard work and persistent labor, and who is now living retired.

Isaac M. Barnes was born on October 7, 1840, in Jackson township, Guernsey county, Ohio, the son of Levi and Susanna (Rogers) Barnes. Levi Barnes was born in Knox county, Ohio, and his wife was born in Maryland.

The former was a carpenter and also a shoemaker by trade. He died in April, 1846, while yet a young man, while his widow survived him many years, her death occurring in Union county, Ohio, in 1867.

Isaac H. Barnes was one of eight children born to his parents, but he is the only one now living. He moved from Guernsey county to Union county, Ohio, in 1855, working in the latter county by the day at farm labor.

On March 19, 1861, Mr. Barnes was married to Almeta Dunlap, the daughter of Robert Dunlap, of Union township, in this county. Eleven children were born to Isaac and Almeta (Dunlap) Barnes, nine of whom are still living, Rachel, the wife of E. Chamberland, of Rainer, Ohio; Robert Lester, who died at the age of thirty years, in April, 1895; Lola, who became the wife of Samuel Swihart, died on May 13, 1895; William E., of Jennings township; Hattie, the wife of A. Wessenbarger, and lives in Jennings township; Cora, the wife of Samuel Swihart; John W., a resident of Jackson township; Enoch, of Jennings township; Otto, also of Jennings township; Aaron, at home, has charge of the farm, and Rella is the wife of Jesse Jenkins, of Jennings township.

Isaac H. Barnes came to Putnam county on December 21, 1869, and settled on the farm where he now lives. Clearing away the timber, he built a small cabin and set to work at clearing and developing his land. He now has good buildings and a finely improved farm. Mr. Barnes has retired from hard labor, but still lives on the farm and retains his personal supervision of the farm labor.

During the early days of the Civil War, when the country was demanding the services of its brave and valiant sons, he enlisted in the Union army, and was a member of Company K, Ninety-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, remaining with this regiment until the close of the war, and was mustered out of service in Mobile, Alabama, June 7, 1865. He was paid off at Columbus, Ohio, July 29, of the same year. Mr. Barnes participated in several of the hard-fought battles of that great conflict, taking part in the battle of Arkansas Post, Chickasaw Bluffs, Port Gibson, and at Raymond, near Vicksburg, as well as Champion Hills, Black River Ford, Siege of Vicksburg, Jackson, Mississippi, Fort James, Fort Morgan and Mobile, Fort Blakely and Fort Spanish, the last a little skirmish near Shistler, Alabama. Mr. Barnes was detailed in the Seventeenth Ohio Battery, Light Artillery, in the rear of Vicksburg and served with this organization for about sixteen months.

Isaac H. Barnes is a man well known in this section of Putnam county. He is remembered today and honored for his valiant services in behalf of the

cause of the Union, when there was serious doubt as to whether the Union would endure. Mr. Barnes has been a useful citizen in times of peace and it is fortunate that in his declining years he has been blessed with a competence which no longer makes his toil and labor necessary.

HERMAN H. BORGELT.

When a notable success is gained by sheer effort, determination and ability, immensely greater credit is due than if the man who succeeded had started with plenty of means and a good education. Herman M. Borgelt secured only the meager rudiments of an education, as it was necessary that he go to work at an early age. By thrift and industry he was enabled to buy his present farm of eighty acres in Liberty township, in the spring of 1906. At the time of purchase the land was wooded, but Mr. Borgelt cleared the land, dug drainage ditches, and built fences, as well as buying an additional forty acres. The property is well improved, has fine, modern buildings, and is devoted to general farming with notable results. This story should be a powerful incentive to the young farmer of today, with all his wonderful advantages.

The birth of Mr. Borgelt occurred in Glandorf, Ottawa township, Putnam county, and he is the son of William and Tracy (Slater) Borgelt. Mr. Borgelt had the following nine sisters and brothers: Ignatz, Frank and Henry, all deceased; Joseph; William; Mrs. Theresa Ellerbrock; Mary, deceased; Mrs. Katherine Remp, and Mrs. Philomena Karl.

William Borgelt was a native of Glandorf, Germany, where he was married before coming to America. He was born on December 15, 1818, and died on the Ottawa township homestead on February 22, 1905. When he first came to America he bought forty acres and later added three tracts, two of forty acres and one of fifty acres. He had two farms in Ottawa township, one of ninety acres and one of eighty acres. He later bought three eighty-acre tracts, located in Ottawa, Pleasant and Union townships, which he divided among his daughters. Although he was a public-spirited man, he was a home lover who took keen interest in his farm ventures, which were usually successful. He was greatly aided by his wife, who was a devoted helpmeet and mother. She was a native of Glandorf, Germany, where she was born on November 30, 1810, and she died on the homestead, April 14, 1911.

The boyhood of Hermair Borgelt was passed on the home farm and he received a slight education in the township schools. He worked on the homestead farm until he was twenty-nine years of age, when he rented a farm on which he lived for three years, finally buying as related in the first paragraph of this article.

On November 7, 1889, Mr. Borgelt married Anna Nartker, the daughter of Ferdinand and Mary (Feltman) Nortker, the former being a native of Glandorf, Germany, and the latter a native of Glandorf, Putnam county, Ohio. Herman H. and Anna (Kartker) Borgelt are the parents of thirteen children, namely: Margaret, who died at the age of three; Matthew, who died at the age of two; the remainder of the children, who all live at home, are, Tracy, Monica, Lewis, Ferdinand, Edward, Sylvester, Alphonse, Hubert, Bernard, Harry, and Lucile.

Mr. Borgelt is an active Democrat and a member of the school board. He and his family are members of the New Cleveland Catholic church. He is an advocate of good roads and is at present foreman of construction of a road which is being built past his farm. Congenial, progressive, and a hard worker, Mr. Borgelt is a good neighbor and has a high standing in his community.

JOHN W. MILLER.

Among the progressive farmers of Putnam county who are respected and admired for the part they have had in promoting the general progress and prosperity of this county is John W. Miller, a well-known farmer of Blanchard township. It has been a comparatively short time since this county was covered with heavy trees, dreary swamps and was overrun by the Indians. Sturdy men have had a part in the transformation of this wilderness and vast sea of water, where now are to be found fertile farms and comfortable and commodious farm buildings. In every community in Putnam county there are leaders in agriculture and business, men who have been fortunate in their struggle for success, and who are the pride of their community. Among these men is John W. Miller.

Mr. Miller was born on April 16, 1866, in Blanchard township, Putnam county, Ohio. He is the son of Joseph Henry and Sarah (Clark) Miller. His boyhood days were spent on the old homestead farm, and here he lived until he reached the age of twenty-three years, when, on October

4, 1887, he was married to Stella J. Agner, the daughter of James B. and Susan (Bemont) Agner.

After his marriage, Mr. Miller operated his father's farm for ten years and then purchased Hillcrest farm, better known as the old Hardin farm, three and one-half miles east of Ottawa on the River road. Mr. Miller is interested in the breeding of thoroughbred live stock, which he raises for his own private purposes. Nothing appeals to his nature more than fine horses, and Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep are his favorite breeds. He is a live-wire farmer in his own community; a general promoter of all public improvements, and has done much toward the extension of the good roads system in his own township. He lays much of his success to the fact that he is thoroughly in love with his chosen occupation.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller are the parents of three children: Pansy L. was born on February 15, 1891, and was married to Ray W. Sheilder on April 9, 1914, and resides four miles east of Leipsic on the Ridge road. To them was born, on March 11, 1915, Esther Estella Sheilder. This little granddaughter has already completely won the affections of her devoted grandparents. Cort C. was born on June 11, 1893, and Merl E. was born on October 3, 1895. Both sons live at home with their parents.

Politically, Mr. Miller is a Democrat, but his politics are governed by principle, not party. He is well known in his community as a substantial farmer and good citizen, and well worthy of representation in the annals of his county.

The paternal grandparents of John W. Miller were John Henry and Sophia C. (Egler) Cook Miller. John Henry Miller was born near Stuttgart, Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1795, and was a gardener. He first located at Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, after coming to this country, and in 1836 came to Ohio. To Mr. and Mrs. John H. Miller was born one son, Joseph H. Miller, March 11, 1838. They settled in Putnam county in 1837, entering one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 19 of Blanchard township. John H. Miller died in 1850 and his wife in 1865.

Joseph H. Miller was married, June 20, 1861, to Sarah Clark, the daughter of James and Jane Clark. James D. Clark was one of the early settlers of Ottawa township, this county. An interesting incident of this pioneer's struggles can be recalled. Mr. Clark had dug a well nineteen feet deep and had walled it in with boulders; but, the water failing, he went into the well to clean it, when the wall caved in. His wife raised an alarm, but the nearest help was one mile away. The few citizens of Ottawa

township at that time assisted in rescuing Mr. Clark, he having been confined over six hours. He was not seriously hurt.

After the marriage of Joseph H. Miller and Sarah Clark they settled on the old Miller homestead, just west of what is now the county infirmary. Here Mr. Miller engaged in general farming. He was especially proficient in horticulture, raising all varieties of fruit. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, three of whom, including a pair of twins, died in infancy, and another daughter, Eva, died at the age of two and one-half years. The eight children who lived to maturity are: Mary (Kersh), born on May 10, 1862; Elizabeth J. (Maidlow), born on April 1, 1864, who died on December 29, 1900; John W., born on April 16, 1866; Margery A. (Harris), born on August 28, 1868; Lucy E. (Heiffelmire), born on April 2, 1871; James E. and Clara E. (Hummons), twins, born on April 4, 1874, and Alonzo, born on October 7, 1888. Eva Ann, born on November 9, 1878; Cortie and Cora, twins, and a son died in infancy.

Mrs. Sarah M. (Clark) Miller died on January 12, 1890. Seven years later, on October 20, 1897, Mr. Miller was married to Catherine Mack. She was the daughter of John Philip and Barbara (Glowner) Mack, and was born on July 13, 1851. Mr. and Mrs. Miller lived on the home place until within a year of Mr. Miller's death, when they retired from the farm to Ottawa, Ohio. Here Mr. Miller died on November 12, 1913.

The wife of the immediate subject of this sketch, Mrs. Stella J. Miller, was the daughter of James B. and Susan Bemont Agner. James Agner and wife were early pioneers in Putnam county, and his wife, who before her marriage was Susan Bemont, was the daughter of Jesse and Catherine (Gross) Bemont. She was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, May 21, 1837. At the age of eight years she, with her parents, emigrated to this county, which was then a dense forest. They traveled in a covered wagon and settled on a claim of eighty acres which now lies four miles east of Ottawa on the Ottawa and Gilboa pike. Susan Bemont was married in Putnam county on August 21, 1856. James Agner was the son of George and Rachel (Mocherman) Agner, and was born on June 12, 1825, in Fairfield county, Ohio. He settled in Putnam county in 1833. Mr. Agner was interested in educational pursuits and was one of the early teachers in this part of the state. Later he followed the occupation of a farmer, at which he was very successful. James Agner and his wife were the parents of seven children: James B., born on May 15, 1857; Mary C. (Crow), born on August 2, 1859; Luella L., born on May 21, 1861; Belle A. (Miller), born on May 13, 1863; John C., born on January 4, 1865; Avis N., born

on October 28, 1866, who died on February 27, 1867, and Stella J., born on March 1, 1868. Three children were born to Mr. Agner by a former wife: Delilah, born on August 5, 1850, who died on September 30, 1851; Myra (Ridge), born on August 15, 1852, and Jemima A. (Cherry), born on May 21, 1854, who died on March 21, 1895. The father, James B. Agner, died on October 1, 1872. Mrs. Agner's two brothers, David and Joel Bemont, died in the Union army in 1865. Mrs. Agner always resided on the farm which her parents settled, until her death, which occurred on March 1, 1910.

ALBERT BURKHART.

The record of Albert Burkhart is that of a man who has worked his way from a modest beginning up to a position of considerable prominence by his efforts, practically unaided, which fact renders him the more worthy of the praise that is freely accorded him by his fellow men. His life has been one of unceasing industry and perseverance and the notably systematic and honorable methods he has followed have won for him the unbounded confidence and regard of all who have formed his acquaintance and, in looking over the list of Putnam county's successful farmers, particularly those whose place of residence is in Union township, Putnam county, Ohio, none are deemed more worthy of representation in a work of this nature than the gentleman whose name appears above.

Albert Burkhart was born on March 27, 1871, on the farm in Union township, where he now lives, and is the son of John and Sarah (Clevenger) Burkhart, the former came from Reading, Pennsylvania, and the latter was a resident of Union township. John Burkhart, with his sister and her husband, Amos Beam, came to Putnam county, Ohio, about the time he arrived at mature age. John Burkhart was a shoemaker by trade and acquired a knowledge of that business during his youth in Pennsylvania. After his arrival in that county, he met and married Sarah Clevenger, then rented the old Isaac McCracken farm. Three years later he bought himself a farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty-four acres, and lived on it until his death. Mr. Burkhart was a supporter of the Democratic party, a devout member of the Methodist church, and at one time served the community in the office of township trustee. After his death, his wife again married, this time to William Rambo, and they reside in Kalida. By the first marriage, Mrs. Burkhart gave birth to the following children:

William, Albert, Milton, Hattie, Paul, Rosa, deceased, and August. Of these children, August married Tizbie Smith and now lives in Union township; Hattie is the wife of Albert Stumpf and lives in Union township; Milton married Nora McDonald, and William married Myrtle Sarber and now resides in Lucas county.

Albert Burkhart was educated in the county schools and in his youth lived on the farm with his parents. After attaining his majority, he rented a farm with his brother, upon which he resided for about ten years, then acquired the old homestead farm by purchasing the interests of the other heirs to it. On April 29, 1904, he was married to Nora Johnson, daughter of Joseph and Susan Johnson. To her parents were born, Margaret, Chloie, Belle, Albert, Frances, David, and the wife of our subject, Nora. Albert and Nora (Johnson) Burkhart have two children, Emerson, born on January 30, 1905, and Paul, on July 24, 1908.

Mr. Burkhart is a supporter of the principles of the Democratic party, and is a member of the Christian church, to the support of which he contributes of his means. Besides carrying on a general farming business, special attention is given to dairy cattle, and being the absolute owner of two hundred and thirteen acres of fine land, equipped with well-arranged and commodious buildings, Mr. Burkhart enjoys, to a marked degree, the esteem of his neighbors and friends and is a true type of the enterprising, representative citizen, and intelligent, high-minded, courteous gentleman whom to know is to esteem and honor.

EDGAR DECK.

The Deck family have been living in Putnam county, Ohio, since 1870, and for the past forty-five years have been identified with the history of Blanchard township.

Edgar Deck, the eldest son of John Michael and Elvira (Davis) Deck, was born on June 3, 1867, in Crawford county, Ohio. His father was born on December 3, 1836, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. At the age of twenty-two years he immigrated to Richland county, Ohio. Our country was then in the throes of the Civil War and he heard his country's call and enlisted in a volunteer battery under Capt. George Kirkland. After the expiration of his first enlistment, he re-enlisted and served till the end of the war, receiving an honorable discharge at Columbus, Ohio, on June 26, 1865.

On November 11, 1866, John M. Deck was united in marriage with Elvira Davis and to this union eight children were born, Edgar, Cloyd, Charles, Harry, Chester and two daughters and a son who died in infancy. Harry passed away on March 15, 1915, at the age of forty-one years.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Deck lived at Bucyrus, Ohio, moving, in 1870, to Putnam county, where he conducted a saw-mill and also agriculture. He invested his money in land, accumulating four hundred acres, located in Van Buren and Blanchard townships. This farm he divided among his five sons, Mr. and Mrs. Deck moving to Leipsic about seven years ago. John M. Deck passed away on June 1, 1915, at the age of seventy-eight years, five months and twenty-eight days.

Edgar Deck was three years of age when his parents located in Putnam county. On November 24, 1888, he was united in marriage with Agnes Buckland and to this union were born seven children: Bertha, who died in infancy; Sanford, who was killed on April 16, 1915, at the age of twenty-four years, by an explosion of dynamite; Mabel; Earl; Zelma; Max, who died at the age of fifteen months, and Imo, who died at the age of three months.

After his marriage, Edgar Deck remained on his father's farm until 1901, when he moved to Leipsic, where he conducted a pool room, threshing during the summer seasons. In 1908 he moved onto his father's farm, which the latter afterward gave to him. While he raises good crops, he still conducts his threshing machine and gives particular attention to the feeding of live stock, having found that the major portion of his income is derived from that source.

JOHN KEHRES.

That life is the most useful which results in the greatest good to the greatest number. Though all do not reach the heights to which they aspire, yet in some measure each can reach success, and make life a blessing to his fellow men. It is not necessary for one to occupy eminent public position to do so, for in the other walks of life there remains much good to be accomplished and many opportunities for the exercise of talent and influence that will in some way touch the lives of those with whom we come in contact, making them better and brighter. In the list of Putnam county's successful citizens, John Kehres, a prosperous farmer of Jackson township, has long occupied a prominent place. In his career there is much that is commendable. His life forcibly illustrates what a man of energy can accomplish when plans

re wisely laid and actions are governed by right principles, noble aims and high ideals.

John Kehres, a well-known farmer of Jackson township, Putnam county, Ohio, who now lives on the old homestead farm which he inherited from his father and where he was born on February 27, 1862, is the son of Sebastian and Barbara (Hintzman) Kehres.

Sebastian Kehres was born in Reunzenheim, Alsace, France, on January 12, 1816. He was educated in his native land and there learned the carpenter trade. Sebastian Kehres was the sixth in a family of nine children. The other eight were Valentine, Magdalena, Michael, Catherine, Anna, Joseph, John and George. Sebastian Kehres served faithfully for six years in the army of his Fatherland and in 1845 was married to Barbara Hintzman, the daughter of Joe and Margaretha (Lang) Hintzman. She was born on December 21, 1826. They were married in France and lived there until March 25, 1857, when they took passage for America. They located in New Riegel, Seneca county, Ohio, where Sebastian Kehres followed the occupation of farming. He purchased a tract of land of forty acres in 1861 and moved to Putnam county a little later, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land in his county. This land was improved to an excellent state of cultivation. Adversities came, however, in 1885, when his home was destroyed on May 15, of that year. He then built a fine residence, in which he lived until his death, on April 2, 1892. His widow survived him and died on January 9, 1896, at the age of seventy years. She was a faithful member of the Catholic church.

Sebastian Kehres was a Democrat in politics, and held several minor offices, among which was that of township supervisor and school director, for several years. Sebastian and Barbara Kehres had ten children.

John Kehres, the subject of this sketch, lived on his father's farm and received his education in the common schools of the township. He was a faithful and industrious lad in all of his work and an invaluable aid to his father and mother.

Mr. Kehres was married on June 6, 1895, to Anna Helmkamp, the daughter of Barney and Clara (Grewe) Helmkamp. She was born in Otterville on September 24, 1867, and there was educated. Her father was a native of Ohio and died on December 26, 1875. Her mother was born in Hanover, Germany, July 24, 1846. She married again, the second time, after the death of her husband, to Bernard Schlagbaum.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Kehres eight children have been born, seven of whom are now living. Hildegard, who lives at Akron, Ohio, Victoria and

Anna, who are at home; Melinda, who died at the age of two years; Casimer, Henrietta, Amelia and Barbara, all of whom also live at home.

John Kehres owns one hundred and twenty acres of well-improved land in Jackson township. He has the very best buildings and has put up almost all of them since he came into possession of this land. He makes a specialty of raising thoroughbred Percheron horses and has a good grade of stock of all kinds.

Mr. Kehres is a Democrat and has been township trustee for several years. He is also a member of the Jackson township school board. All of the members of the Kehres family are affiliated with the Catholic church at Ottoville, and Mr. Kehres is a liberal contributor to the support of this church. He is an influential citizen and highly respected by all the people of Jackson township.

GEORGE A. BURKHOLDER.

The whole career of George A. Burkholder has been spent in Putnam county, Ohio, where he was brought by his parents a few months after his birth in Pennsylvania. His father was a carpenter and he followed the same trade himself until a few years ago, since which time he has been engaged in general farming and stock raising in Van Buren township. He now has a well-improved farm, on which he raises all the crops peculiar to this section of the state.

George A. Burkholder, the son of Alfred and Mary Ann (Wolf) Burkholder, was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, on June 11, 1861. Alfred Burkholder was born in the same county in 1831, a son of Joseph and Caroline Burkholder. He grew to manhood in Pennsylvania and married Mary Ann Wolf, the daughter of George and Mary Ann Wolf, natives of Pennsylvania and Scotland, respectively. Mary Ann Wolf, the maternal grandmother of George A. Burkholder, was a native of Scotland, coming to this country, when she was very young, with her parents.

Alfred Burkholder was a carpenter by trade and in 1861 removed from Pennsylvania to Putnam county, Ohio, where he located in Liberty township. Within a short time after settling in Putnam county, he enlisted in the Eighty-eighth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served throughout the war. He was assigned to guard duty at the Federal prison in Franklin, and did not see active service at the front. After the war he returned to Putnam county, and continued his trade as a carpenter until his death. Seven children

were born to Alfred Burkholder and wife, George A., of Putnam county; Florence, who married Emery Warden, and has two children; Joseph, who married Effie Dick, and has four children; Delia, who married Sherman Hamon, and has three children; Jasper, unmarried; Lula, who is the wife of Edward Emmons, and has two children; Ardella, the wife of Terry Connor.

George A. Burkholder was educated in the common schools of Liberty township, and remained at home until his marriage. As a young man he had learned the carpenter trade with his father, and after his marriage he continued to follow the carpenter and contracting business in this county. A few years ago he was injured in such a way that he was unable to continue his work as a carpenter, and since that time has devoted himself to general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Burkholder was married on November 25, 1890, to Lydia Toman, the daughter of George and Elizabeth Toman, natives of western Pennsylvania. Mrs. Burkholder was born in Putnam county, Ohio. To their union have been born four children, Elizabeth, Howard, Bon Ware and Harry, all of whom are single and still living with their parents.

Mr. Burkholder is a member of the Church of God, while his wife holds her membership in the Church of Christ. Mr. Burkholder and his family are highly esteemed in the community where they have lived for the past quarter of a century, and they have many warm friends who admire them for their many good qualities of head and heart.

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